

**BERKELEY CITY COUNCIL LAND USE, HOUSING, & ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING**

**Thursday, October 7, 2021  
10:30 AM**

Committee Members:

Councilmembers Sophie Hahn, Rigel Robinson, and Lori Droste  
Alternate: Councilmember Ben Bartlett

**PUBLIC ADVISORY: THIS MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED EXCLUSIVELY THROUGH  
VIDEOCONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE**

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e) and the state declared emergency, this meeting of the City Council Land Use, Housing, & Economic Development Committee will be conducted exclusively through teleconference and Zoom videoconference. The COVID-19 state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person and presents imminent risks to the health of attendees. Therefore, no physical meeting location will be available.

To access the meeting remotely using the internet: Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone, or Android device: Use URL <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89061698001>. If you do not wish for your name to appear on the screen, then use the drop down menu and click on "rename" to rename yourself to be anonymous. To request to speak, use the "raise hand" icon on the screen.

To join by phone: Dial **1-669-900-9128** or **1-877-853-5257 (Toll Free)** and Enter Meeting ID: **890 6169 8001**. If you wish to comment during the public comment portion of the agenda, press \*9 and wait to be recognized by the Chair.

Written communications submitted by mail or e-mail to the Land Use, Housing, & Economic Development Committee by 5:00 p.m. the Friday before the Committee meeting will be distributed to the members of the Committee in advance of the meeting and retained as part of the official record.

# AGENDA

## Roll Call

## Public Comment on Non-Agenda Matters

## Minutes for Approval

*Draft minutes for the Committee's consideration and approval.*

### 1. Minutes - June 17, 2021 and September 28, 2021

## Committee Action Items

*The public may comment on each item listed on the agenda for action as the item is taken up. The Chair will determine the number of persons interested in speaking on each item. Up to ten (10) speakers may speak for two minutes. If there are more than ten persons interested in speaking, the Chair may limit the public comment for all speakers to one minute per speaker. Speakers are permitted to yield their time to one other speaker, however no one speaker shall have more than four minutes.*

*Following review and discussion of the items listed below, the Committee may continue an item to a future committee meeting, or refer the item to the City Council.*

### 2. **Affordable Housing Overlay** **From: Councilmember Taplin (Author), Councilmember Bartlett (Co-Sponsor), Councilmember Robinson (Co-Sponsor)** *(Item contains revised material.)* **Referred: February 22, 2021** **Due: February 3, 2022**

**Recommendation:** Refer to the City Manager and Planning Commission revisions to the zoning code and General Plan, permitting increased height and density for 100% affordable housing developments, including but not limited to:

1. Exceeding standards set forth in California Government Code Section 65915 (AB-1763) with additional local height and density incentives, including waivers and modifications similar to those vested in state density bonus law, with ministerial approval for qualifying 100% affordable projects deed-restricted for Low, Very Low, Extremely Low, and Moderate Income households (exclusive of manager's unit) pursuant to AB-1763, and maintaining demolition restrictions consistent with state law, specifying:

a. In R3, R4, MU-R, and all C-prefixed zoning districts, a local density bonus in addition to, and duplicative of, the state density bonus under Government Code Section 65915 for qualifying projects, waiving limits on floor area ratio, and permitting up to 80% lot coverage; and study additional incentives in these zones;

b. In R-1, R-1A, R-2, and R-2A zones, a local density bonus for qualifying projects inclusive of existing density bonuses, waiving limits on floor area ratio, and permitting up to 80% lot coverage; and study project feasibility in these zones;

c. Create General Plan amendments that allow for 100% affordable qualifying projects to increase density while avoiding inconsistencies with General Plan densities;

d. Skilled and trained workforce standards as defined by SB-7 (Atkins, 2021) for

## Committee Action Items

- qualifying projects with at least 50,000 square feet of total floor area;
2. Exempting parcels with Designated City, State, and Federal Historic Landmarks;
  3. Exempting parcels in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ) as determined by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire), and in City of Berkeley Fire Zones 2 and 3;
  4. Develop objective design standards for qualifying projects to receive ministerial approval, including guidelines for architectural details with respect to neighborhood context, massing, and building facades; materials, color, and finishes; open space, public art, and landscaping; circulation and outdoor lighting; 20' average building setback above the fourth floor (or 45') from any property line that is adjacent to a low or low-to-medium residential district; utilities; interiors; financial feasibility, and environmental sustainability, to be implemented with the following provisions:
    - a. Solicit community input, including through public outreach to be conducted in the Housing Element update process, for design standards that would ensure consistency with the City of Berkeley's architectural quality;
    - b. Establish an advisory Design Review process through the Design Review Committee (DRC). An applicant may elect to return for advisory comment up to two more times. For projects with fewer than 150 units, the City shall review and approve, based on consistency with objective standards, an affordable housing application within 90 days of submission. After 60 days, the City shall provide the applicant with an exhaustive list of objective standards not met by the project, and how the standards could or should be met. For projects with 150 units or more, these time frames shall be 90 and 180 days, respectively. The time under these provisions will toll between the City's issuance of a letter describing inconsistency with objective standards and the time necessary for the applicant to respond to those items.

Council directs the Planning Commission and staff to codify an Affordable Housing Overlay for 100% affordable housing as specified above in 2021-2022 work plans in anticipation of 2023-2031 RHNA cycle. Staff and the commission should build upon the framework established in Government Code Section 65915 as well as municipal implementations of Affordable Housing Overlays in other jurisdictions.

**Financial Implications:** See report

Contact: Terry Taplin, Councilmember, District 2, (510) 981-7120

## Unscheduled Items

*These items are not scheduled for discussion or action at this meeting. The Committee may schedule these items to the Action Calendar of a future Committee meeting.*

- 3. Amendments to Berkeley Municipal Code 23C.22: Short Term Rentals**  
**From: Councilmember Harrison (Author)**  
**Referred: July 28, 2020**  
**Due: February 3, 2022**  
**Recommendation:** Amend Berkeley Municipal Code 23C.22: Short Term Rentals to clarify the ordinance and insure adequate host responsibilities, tenant protections and remedies for violating the ordinance.  
**Financial Implications:** See report  
Contact: Kate Harrison, Councilmember, District 4, (510) 981-7140
- 4. Referral to the City Manager to Streamline Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Permit Review and Approval**  
**From: Councilmember Kesarwani (Author), Councilmember Wengraf (Co-Sponsor), Councilmember Droste (Co-Sponsor), and Councilmember Bartlett (Co-Sponsor)**  
**Referred: April 26, 2021**  
**Due: February 14, 2022**  
**Recommendation:** 1. Refer to the City Manager to streamline the Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) permitting process in order to reduce staff time spent on review and enhance customer service. Further, assess effectiveness of process improvements specified below by reviewing over time: the number of ADUs permitted, average amount of staff time spent on ADU permit review, and permit fee levels.  
2. Recommend that the City Manager develop for Planning staff use an ADU Universal Checklist and accompanying user-friendly webpage: a. ADU Universal Checklist. A clear set of universal guidelines and construction requirements should be developed among staff from Planning (both Land Use and Building and Safety Divisions), Fire, and Public Works Departments that is easy to follow in order to eliminate (or significantly reduce) the need for multiple departments to review ADU permit applications and for multiple rounds of review by the same department. The Universal Checklist should be a single document utilized by all City staff to review ADU permit applications and by customers to understand code requirements. The Universal Checklist should enable all City staff and customers to have the same clear understanding of all of the requirements that, if adhered to, would expedite the permitting process and lead to lower permit fees over time. b. Accompanying User-Friendly Webpage. As a companion to the ADU Universal Checklist, the City should also create a user-friendly webpage for customers (and prospective customers) with up-to-date information that provides clarity and greater certainty about the process and expected timeline for the creation of an ADU or Junior ADU, which is within a main dwelling unit. At a minimum, the webpage should include: i. A list of relevant fees and expected payment amounts for permits, inspections, and other requirements; ii. Plan requirements, worksheets, and projected timelines for each step of the process; and iii. Consolidated up-to-date state and local regulations that are easy to understand.

## Unscheduled Items

3. Recommend that the City Manager consider adoption of the following two best practices: a. Pre-Approved ADU Design Plans. Consider development of (1) free ADU designs available to download--of varying sizes and styles--that already conform to all City and state requirements and safety codes; and/or (2) a list of vendors with architectural designs and construction drawings that have already been approved by the City and are available to customers for a nominal fee to the architect. b. ADU Ally. Consider dedicating existing Planning staff member(s) time to the role of an "ADU Ally." The ADU Ally is a customer-facing staff person(s) who is an expert on all current state and local ADU regulations and acts as an ally to customers through the planning and building process.

**Financial Implications:** See report

Contact: Rashi Kesarwani, Councilmember, District 1, (510) 981-7110

## Items for Future Agendas

- Discussion of items to be added to future agendas

## Adjournment

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*Written communications addressed to the Land Use, Housing & Economic Development Committee and submitted to the City Clerk Department will be distributed to the Committee prior to the meeting.*

*This meeting will be conducted in accordance with the Brown Act, Government Code Section 54953. Members of the City Council who are not members of the standing committee may attend a standing committee meeting even if it results in a quorum being present, provided that the non-members only act as observers and do not participate in the meeting. If only one member of the Council who is not a member of the committee is present for the meeting, the member may participate in the meeting because less than a quorum of the full Council is present. Any member of the public may attend this meeting. Questions regarding this matter may be addressed to Mark Numainville, City Clerk, (510) 981-6900.*



### COMMUNICATION ACCESS INFORMATION:

To request a disability-related accommodation(s) to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Disability Services specialist at (510) 981-6418 (V) or (510) 981-6347 (TDD) at least three business days before the meeting date.

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I hereby certify that the agenda for this meeting of the Standing Committee of the Berkeley City Council was posted at the display case located near the walkway in front of the Maudelle Shirek Building, 2134 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, as well as on the City's website, on Thursday, September 30, 2021.



Mark Numainville, City Clerk

## Communications

*Communications submitted to City Council Policy Committees are on file in the City Clerk Department at 2180 Milvia Street, 1st Floor, Berkeley, CA, and are available upon request by contacting the City Clerk Department at (510) 981-6908 or [policycommittee@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:policycommittee@cityofberkeley.info).*



**BERKELEY CITY COUNCIL LAND USE, HOUSING, & ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, June 17, 2021  
10:30 AM**

Committee Members:

Councilmembers Sophie Hahn, Rigel Robinson, and Lori Droste  
Alternate: Councilmember Ben Bartlett

**PUBLIC ADVISORY: THIS MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED EXCLUSIVELY THROUGH  
VIDEOCONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE**

Pursuant to Section 3 of Executive Order N-29-20, issued by Governor Newsom on March 17, 2020, this meeting of the City Council Land Use, Housing, & Economic Development Committee will be conducted exclusively through teleconference and Zoom videoconference. Please be advised that pursuant to the Executive Order, and to ensure the health and safety of the public by limiting human contact that could spread the COVID-19 virus, there will not be a physical meeting location available.

To access the meeting remotely using the internet: Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone, or Android device: Use URL <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85943483266>. If you do not wish for your name to appear on the screen, then use the drop down menu and click on "rename" to rename yourself to be anonymous. To request to speak, use the "raise hand" icon on the screen.

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Written communications submitted by mail or e-mail to the Land Use, Housing, & Economic Development Committee by 5:00 p.m. the Friday before the Committee meeting will be distributed to the members of the Committee in advance of the meeting and retained as part of the official record. City offices are currently closed and cannot accept written communications in person.

## MINUTES

**Roll Call:** 10:32 am. Councilmembers Bartlett, Hahn, and Robinson present.

**Public Comment on Non-Agenda Matters:** 2 speakers.

### Minutes for Approval

*Draft minutes for the Committee's consideration and approval.*

**1. Minutes - May 20, 2021**

M/S/C (Hahn/Robinson) to approve the May 20, 2021 minutes.

**Vote:** Ayes – Hahn, Robinson; Noes – None; Abstain – Bartlett; Absent – None.

### Committee Action Items

*The public may comment on each item listed on the agenda for action as the item is taken up. The Chair will determine the number of persons interested in speaking on each item. Up to ten (10) speakers may speak for two minutes. If there are more than ten persons interested in speaking, the Chair may limit the public comment for all speakers to one minute per speaker. Speakers are permitted to yield their time to one other speaker, however no one speaker shall have more than four minutes.*

*Following review and discussion of the items listed below, the Committee may continue an item to a future committee meeting, or refer the item to the City Council.*

**2. Disposition of Existing Agenda Items Pursuant to Appendix D of the City Council Rules of Procedure and Order Related to Temporary Rules for Policy Committees**

**Action:** 2 speakers. Discussion held. M/S/C (Hahn/Robinson) to continue the item to the next meeting.

**Vote:** All Ayes.

## Committee Action Items

### 3. **Resolution Recognizing Housing as Human Right; Referring to City Manager Several Measures to Begin Developing Social Housing in the City of Berkeley** *(Item contains revised material.)*

**From: Councilmember Taplin (Author), Mayor Arreguin (Co-Sponsor), Councilmember Harrison (co-sponsor), Councilmember Hahn (Co-Sponsor)**

**Referred: February 8, 2021**

**Due: June 29, 2021**

**Recommendation:** Adopt a Resolution recognizing housing as a human right; refer to the City Manager's office several measures to begin developing social housing in the City of Berkeley. Measures shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Study and report to council on development potential, including density bonuses, for mixed-income housing development starting with the city-owned parcels at 1011 University Ave, and seek information through an RFI or other process on the potential for cross-subsidized limited-equity leasehold and rental models or other social housing development models;
2. Study and return to council a report and, if feasible, a proposal for a Reparative Justice Revolving Loan Fund with affirmative racial justice and anti-displacement goals in coordination with the city's Small Sites Program:
  - a. Providing low-interest loans for tenants, nonprofits, limited-equity co-operatives, and community land trusts to acquire real property; support Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) funding; develop and/or maintain mixed-income and permanently affordable housing;
  - b. Leveraging local funds with state and regional partnerships through the Bay Area Housing Finance Agency (BAHFA) with the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), Berkeley Housing Authority, Berkeley Unified School District (BUSD) and BART;
  - c. Consider best practices from other agencies and other partnership opportunities;
3. Establish a publicly available, user-friendly data dashboard potentially using third-party data visualization tools for monitoring Housing Justice Indicators in the city including, but not limited to:
  - a. State certification of city's Housing Element and progress toward RHNA goals for each income tier in annual Housing Pipeline Reports;
  - b. Housing Element compliance with Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) rule pursuant to California Government Code Section 65583 and Chapter 15, Section 8899.50 of Division 1 of Title 2, presented with, at a minimum;
    - Citywide and regional affordability as defined by median rents and home prices as share of one-third of the City of Berkeley and Alameda County's median household income in most recent American Community Survey data;
    - Local funding and open BMR housing application slots available to meet housing needs of Moderate, Low-, Very Low-, and Extremely Low-Income households;
    - Anti-displacement metrics using UC Berkeley Displacement Project data and tracking successful applications to affordable housing units in the city using Local Preference policy;
    - Geographic considerations including historic redlining and segregation; Sensitive Communities and High Displacement Risk Areas identified in the 2019 CASA Compact by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC); and access to

## Committee Action Items

economic opportunity as measured by State of California Tax Credit Allocation Committee (TCAC) Opportunity Area Maps;

- Any other considerations relevant to AFFH compliance and reparative housing justice.

**Financial Implications:** See report

Contact: Terry Taplin, Councilmember, District 2, (510) 981-7120

Item due date extended to September 30, 2021 at the request of the author.

**Action:** 6 speakers. Discussion held. M/S/C (Hahn/Robinson) Qualified positive recommendation that Council approve the item with amendments formally discussed at the meeting and as follows:

1. Including a budget referral of up to \$300,000 and clarifying that the allocation may include one or more consultants;
2. Amending the staff report to remove the portion under “Rationale for Recommendation” beginning with “In Hawaii, Sen. Chang has opted for a more direct route...” and encompassing footnotes 48, 49, and 50; and
3. Amending the Resolution to include record of the “attendant freedoms and entitlements as enumerated by the United Nations”; removing the portion of the Resolution incorporating a referral to the City Manager; and making typographical changes to the Resolution as agreed to by the Author.

**Vote:** All Ayes.

## Unscheduled Items

*These items are not scheduled for discussion or action at this meeting. The Committee may schedule these items to the Action Calendar of a future Committee meeting.*

### 4. Affordable Housing Overlay

**From: Councilmember Taplin (Author), Councilmember Bartlett (Co-Sponsor), Councilmember Robinson (Co-Sponsor)** *(Item contains revised material.)*

**Referred: February 22, 2021**

**Due: July 12, 2021**

**Recommendation:** Refer to the City Manager and Planning Commission revisions to the zoning code and General Plan, permitting increased height and density for 100% affordable housing developments, including but not limited to:

1. Exceeding standards set forth in California Government Code Section 65915 (AB-1763) with additional local height and density incentives, including waivers and modifications similar to those vested in state density bonus law, with ministerial approval contingent on objective zoning and design criteria, for qualifying 100% affordable projects deed-restricted for Low, Very Low, Extremely Low, and Moderate Income households (exclusive of manager's unit) pursuant to AB-1763, specifying:
  - a. In R3, R4, and all C-prefixed zoning districts, a local density bonus in addition to, and duplicative of, the state density bonus under Government Code Section 65915 for up to a total of 85' for qualifying projects;
  - b. In R-1, R-1A, R-2, and R-2A zones, a local 12' height bonus for qualifying projects, waiving density limits and permitting up to 80% lot coverage;
  - c. In all qualifying transit-adjacent areas, inclusive of all parcels within one-half mile of a commuter rail station, or within 1/4 mile of an AC Transit bus route with 7-day service in Fiscal Year 2019, waiving density limits, including units per acre, floor area ratio, and up to 80% lot coverage;
  - d. Create General Plan amendments that allow for 100% affordable qualifying projects to avoid inconsistencies with General Plan densities;
  - e. Increased density for projects outside of transit proximity threshold specified in 1(c) above contingent upon additional Transportation Demand Management (TDM) policies aiming to reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) per capita, including bike parking, paratransit and shared micro-mobility systems;
  - f. Skilled and trained workforce standards as defined by the February 18, 2021 version of SB-7 (Atkins) for qualifying projects with at least 50,000 square feet of total floor area;
2. Exempting parcels with Designated Historic Landmarks and maintaining demolition restrictions consistent with state law;
3. On parcels within high-risk wildfire zones as determined by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire), ministerial approval for qualifying projects should be contingent on fire blocking design and defensible space standards certified by the Planning Department. Council directs the Planning Commission and staff to codify an Affordable Housing Overlay for 100% affordable housing as specified above in 2021-2022 work plans in anticipation of 2023-2031 RHNA cycle. Staff and the commission should build upon the framework established in Government Code Section 65915 as well as municipal implementations of Affordable Housing Overlays in other jurisdictions.

## Unscheduled Items

**Financial Implications:** See report

Contact: Terry Taplin, Councilmember, District 2, (510) 981-7120

Item due date extended to September 30, 2021 at the request of the author.

**5. Amendments to Berkeley Municipal Code 23C.22: Short Term Rentals**

**From: Councilmember Harrison (Author)**

**Referred: July 28, 2020**

**Due: September 30, 2021**

**Recommendation:** Amend Berkeley Municipal Code 23C.22: Short Term Rentals to clarify the ordinance and insure adequate host responsibilities, tenant protections and remedies for violating the ordinance.

**Financial Implications:** See report

Contact: Kate Harrison, Councilmember, District 4, (510) 981-7140

**6. Referral to the City Manager to Streamline Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Permit Review and Approval**

**From: Councilmember Kesarwani (Author), Councilmember Wengraf (Co-Sponsor), Councilmember Droste (Co-Sponsor), and Councilmember Bartlett (Co-Sponsor)**

**Referred: April 26, 2021**

**(Item placed on "Inactive" status by the Agenda & Rules Committee pursuant to Appendix D of the Rules of Procedure)**

**Due: February 14, 2022**

**Recommendation:** 1. Refer to the City Manager to streamline the Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) permitting process in order to reduce staff time spent on review and enhance customer service. Further, assess effectiveness of process improvements specified below by reviewing over time: the number of ADUs permitted, average amount of staff time spent on ADU permit review, and permit fee levels.

2. Recommend that the City Manager develop for Planning staff use an ADU Universal Checklist and accompanying user-friendly webpage:

a. ADU Universal Checklist. A clear set of universal guidelines and construction requirements should be developed among staff from Planning (both Land Use and Building and Safety Divisions), Fire, and Public Works Departments that is easy to follow in order to eliminate (or significantly reduce) the need for multiple departments to review ADU permit applications and for multiple rounds of review by the same department. The Universal Checklist should be a single document utilized by all City staff to review ADU permit applications and by customers to understand code requirements. The Universal Checklist should enable all City staff and customers to have the same clear understanding of all of the requirements that, if adhered to, would expedite the permitting process and lead to lower permit fees over time.

b. Accompanying User-Friendly Webpage. As a companion to the ADU Universal Checklist, the City should also create a user-friendly webpage for customers (and prospective customers) with up-to-date information that provides clarity and greater certainty about the process and expected timeline for the creation of an ADU or

## Unscheduled Items

Junior ADU, which is within a main dwelling unit. At a minimum, the webpage should include:

- i. A list of relevant fees and expected payment amounts for permits, inspections, and other requirements;
- ii. Plan requirements, worksheets, and projected timelines for each step of the process; and
- iii. Consolidated up-to-date state and local regulations that are easy to understand.

3. Recommend that the City Manager consider adoption of the following two best practices:

- a. Pre-Approved ADU Design Plans. Consider development of
  - (1) free ADU designs available to download--of varying sizes and styles--that already conform to all City and state requirements and safety codes; and/or
  - (2) a list of vendors with architectural designs and construction drawings that have already been approved by the City and are available to customers for a nominal fee to the architect.
- b. ADU Ally. Consider dedicating existing Planning staff member(s) time to the role of an "ADU Ally." The ADU Ally is a customer-facing staff person(s) who is an expert on all current state and local ADU regulations and acts as an ally to customers through the planning and building process.

**Financial Implications:** See report

Contact: Rashi Kesarwani, Councilmember, District 1, (510) 981-7110

## Items for Future Agendas

- None

## Adjournment

**Action:** M/S/C (Bartlett/Hahn) to adjourn the meeting.

**Vote:** All Ayes.

Adjourned at 12:09 p.m.

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct record of the Land Use, Housing, & Economic Development Committee meeting held on June 17, 2021.

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Sarah K. Bunting, Assistant City Clerk

**BERKELEY CITY COUNCIL LAND USE, HOUSING, & ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, September 28, 2021  
11:00 AM**

Committee Members:

Councilmembers Sophie Hahn, Rigel Robinson, and Lori Droste  
Alternate: Councilmember Ben Bartlett

**PUBLIC ADVISORY: THIS MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED EXCLUSIVELY THROUGH  
VIDEOCONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE**

Pursuant to Section 3 of Executive Order N-29-20, issued by Governor Newsom on March 17, 2020, this meeting of the City Council Land Use, Housing, & Economic Development Committee will be conducted exclusively through teleconference and Zoom videoconference. Please be advised that pursuant to the Executive Order, and to ensure the health and safety of the public by limiting human contact that could spread the COVID-19 virus, there will not be a physical meeting location available.

To access the meeting remotely using the internet: Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone, or Android device: Use URL <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87828171951>. If you do not wish for your name to appear on the screen, then use the drop down menu and click on "rename" to rename yourself to be anonymous. To request to speak, use the "raise hand" icon on the screen.

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Written communications submitted by mail or e-mail to the Land Use, Housing, & Economic Development Committee by 5:00 p.m. the Friday before the Committee meeting will be distributed to the members of the Committee in advance of the meeting and retained as part of the official record.

## MINUTES

**Roll Call:** 11:02 am. Councilmembers Droste, Hahn, and Robinson present.

**Public Comment on Non-Agenda Matters:** 5 speakers.

### Unscheduled Items

*These items are not scheduled for discussion or action at this meeting. The Committee may schedule these items to the Action Calendar of a future Committee meeting.*

**1. Affordable Housing Overlay**

**From: Councilmember Taplin (Author), Councilmember Bartlett (Co-Sponsor), Councilmember Robinson (Co-Sponsor)** *(Item contains revised material.)*

**Referred: February 22, 2021**

**Due: September 30, 2021**

**Recommendation:** Refer to the City Manager and Planning Commission revisions to the zoning code and General Plan, permitting increased height and density for 100% affordable housing developments, including but not limited to:

1. Exceeding standards set forth in California Government Code Section 65915 (AB-1763) with additional local height and density incentives, including waivers and modifications similar to those vested in state density bonus law, with ministerial approval for qualifying 100% affordable projects deed-restricted for Low, Very Low, Extremely Low, and Moderate Income households (exclusive of manager's unit) pursuant to AB-1763, and maintaining demolition restrictions consistent with state law, specifying:
  - a. In R3, R4, and all C-prefixed zoning districts, a local density bonus in addition to, and duplicative of, the state density bonus under Government Code Section 65915 for up to a total of 67' for qualifying projects in C-prefixed corridor zones and 55' for R-3/R-4, waiving limits on floor area ratio, and permitting up to 80% lot coverage;
  - b. In R-1, R-1A, R-2, and R-2A zones, a local 7' height bonus for qualifying projects inclusive of existing density bonuses, waiving limits on floor area ratio, and permitting up to 80% lot coverage;
  - c. Create General Plan amendments that allow for 100% affordable qualifying projects to increase density while avoiding inconsistencies with General Plan densities;
  - d. Skilled and trained workforce standards as defined by SB-7 (Atkins, 2021) for qualifying projects with at least 50,000 square feet of total floor area;
2. Exempting parcels with Designated Historic Landmarks;
3. Exempting parcels in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ) as determined by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire);
4. Develop objective design standards for qualifying projects to receive ministerial approval, including guidelines for architectural details with respect to neighborhood context, massing, and building facades; materials, color, and finishes; open space, public art, and landscaping; circulation and outdoor lighting; 20' average building setback above the fourth floor (or 45') from any property line that is adjacent to a low

## Unscheduled Items

or low-to-medium residential district; utilities; interiors; financial feasibility, and environmental sustainability, to be implemented with the following provisions:

- a. Solicit community input, including through public outreach to be conducted in the Housing Element update process, for design standards that would ensure consistency with the City of Berkeley's architectural quality;
- b. Establish an advisory Design Review process through the Design Review Committee (DRC). An applicant may elect to return for advisory comment up to two more times. For projects with fewer than 150 units, the City shall review and approve, based on consistency with objective standards, an affordable housing application within 90 days of submission. After 60 days, the City shall provide the applicant with an exhaustive list of objective standards not met by the project, and how the standards could or should be met. For projects with 150 units or more, these time frames shall be 90 and 180 days, respectively. The time under these provisions will toll between the City's issuance of a letter describing inconsistency with objective standards and the time necessary for the applicant to respond to those items.

Council directs the Planning Commission and staff to codify an Affordable Housing Overlay for 100% affordable housing as specified above in 2021-2022 work plans in anticipation of 2023-2031 RHNA cycle. Staff and the commission should build upon the framework established in Government Code Section 65915 as well as municipal implementations of Affordable Housing Overlays in other jurisdictions.

**Financial Implications:** See report

Contact: Terry Taplin, Councilmember, District 2, (510) 981-7120

Item due date extended to February 3, 2022 at the request of the author.

### 2. **Amendments to Berkeley Municipal Code 23C.22: Short Term Rentals**

**From: Councilmember Harrison (Author)**

**Referred: July 28, 2020**

**Due: September 30, 2021**

**Recommendation:** Amend Berkeley Municipal Code 23C.22: Short Term Rentals to clarify the ordinance and insure adequate host responsibilities, tenant protections and remedies for violating the ordinance.

**Financial Implications:** See report

Contact: Kate Harrison, Councilmember, District 4, (510) 981-7140

Item due date extended to February 3, 2022 at the request of the author.

## Unscheduled Items

### 3. Referral to the City Manager to Streamline Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Permit Review and Approval

**From: Councilmember Kesarwani (Author), Councilmember Wengraf (Co-Sponsor), Councilmember Droste (Co-Sponsor), and Councilmember Bartlett (Co-Sponsor)**

**Referred: April 26, 2021**

**Due: February 14, 2022**

**Recommendation:** 1. Refer to the City Manager to streamline the Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) permitting process in order to reduce staff time spent on review and enhance customer service. Further, assess effectiveness of process improvements specified below by reviewing over time: the number of ADUs permitted, average amount of staff time spent on ADU permit review, and permit fee levels. 2. Recommend that the City Manager develop for Planning staff use an ADU Universal Checklist and accompanying user-friendly webpage: a. ADU Universal Checklist. A clear set of universal guidelines and construction requirements should be developed among staff from Planning (both Land Use and Building and Safety Divisions), Fire, and Public Works Departments that is easy to follow in order to eliminate (or significantly reduce) the need for multiple departments to review ADU permit applications and for multiple rounds of review by the same department. The Universal Checklist should be a single document utilized by all City staff to review ADU permit applications and by customers to understand code requirements. The Universal Checklist should enable all City staff and customers to have the same clear understanding of all of the requirements that, if adhered to, would expedite the permitting process and lead to lower permit fees over time. b. Accompanying User-Friendly Webpage. As a companion to the ADU Universal Checklist, the City should also create a user-friendly webpage for customers (and prospective customers) with up-to-date information that provides clarity and greater certainty about the process and expected timeline for the creation of an ADU or Junior ADU, which is within a main dwelling unit. At a minimum, the webpage should include: i. A list of relevant fees and expected payment amounts for permits, inspections, and other requirements; ii. Plan requirements, worksheets, and projected timelines for each step of the process; and iii. Consolidated up-to-date state and local regulations that are easy to understand.

3. Recommend that the City Manager consider adoption of the following two best practices: a. Pre-Approved ADU Design Plans. Consider development of (1) free ADU designs available to download--of varying sizes and styles--that already conform to all City and state requirements and safety codes; and/or (2) a list of vendors with architectural designs and construction drawings that have already been approved by the City and are available to customers for a nominal fee to the architect. b. ADU Ally. Consider dedicating existing Planning staff member(s) time to the role of an "ADU Ally." The ADU Ally is a customer-facing staff person(s) who is an expert on all current state and local ADU regulations and acts as an ally to customers through the planning and building process.

**Financial Implications:** See report

Contact: Rashi Kesarwani, Councilmember, District 1, (510) 981-7110

## Items for Future Agendas

- None

## Adjournment

**Action:** M/S/C (Hahn/Droste) to adjourn the meeting.

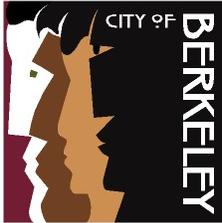
**Vote:** All Ayes.

Adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct record of the Land Use, Housing, & Economic Development Committee meeting held on September 28, 2021.

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Sarah K. Bunting, Assistant City Clerk



Terry Taplin  
Councilmember District 2

## **SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA MATERIAL for Supplemental Packet 2**

**Meeting Date:** September 28, 2021

**Item Number:** 1

**Item Description:** Affordable Housing Overlay

**Submitted by:** Councilmember Taplin

- Added MU-R to high-density zones under consideration to enable flexibility at Planning Commission's discretion
- Removed height limit specifications
- Added City of Berkeley Fire Zones 2 and 3
- Specified City, State, and Federal Historic Landmarks



ACTION CALENDAR  
DATE: March 9, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Taplin, Councilmember Bartlett (co-sponsor), ~~and~~  
Councilmember Robinson (co-sponsors)

Subject: Affordable Housing Overlay

RECOMMENDATION

Refer to the City Manager and Planning Commission revisions to the zoning code and General Plan, permitting increased height and density for 100% affordable housing developments, including but not limited to:

1. Exceeding standards set forth in California Government Code Section 65915 (AB-1763) with additional local height and density incentives, including waivers and modifications similar to those vested in state density bonus law, with ministerial approval for qualifying 100% affordable projects deed-restricted for Low, Very Low, Extremely Low, and Moderate Income households (exclusive of manager's unit) pursuant to AB-1763, and maintaining demolition restrictions consistent with state law, specifying:
  - a. In R3, R4, MU-R, and all C-prefixed zoning districts, a local density bonus in addition to, and duplicative of, the state density bonus under Government Code Section 65915 ~~for up to a total of 67'~~ for qualifying projects ~~in C-prefixed corridor zones and 55' for R-3/R-4~~, waiving limits on floor area ratio, and permitting up to 80% lot coverage; and study additional incentives in these zones;
  - b. In R-1, R-1A, R-2, and R-2A zones, a local ~~7' height~~ bonus for qualifying projects inclusive of existing density bonuses, waiving limits on floor area ratio, and permitting up to 80% lot coverage; and study project feasibility in these zones;
  - c. Create General Plan amendments that allow for 100% affordable qualifying projects to increase density while avoiding inconsistencies with General Plan densities;
  - d. Skilled and trained workforce standards as defined by SB-7 (Atkins, 2021) for qualifying projects with at least 50,000 square feet of total floor area;
2. Exempting parcels with Designated City, State, and Federal Historic Landmarks;
3. Exempting parcels in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ) as determined by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire), and in City of Berkeley Fire Zones 2 and 3;

4. Develop objective design standards for qualifying projects to receive ministerial approval, including guidelines for architectural details with respect to neighborhood context, massing, and building facades; materials, color, and finishes; open space, public art, and landscaping; circulation and outdoor lighting; 20' average building setback above the fourth floor (or 45') from any property line that is adjacent to a low or low-to-medium residential district; utilities; interiors; financial feasibility, and environmental sustainability, to be implemented with the following provisions:
  - a. Solicit community input, including through public outreach to be conducted in the Housing Element update process, for design standards that would ensure consistency with the City of Berkeley's architectural quality;
  - b. Establish an advisory Design Review process through the Design Review Committee (DRC). An applicant may elect to return for advisory comment up to two more times. For projects with fewer than 150 units, the City shall review and approve, based on consistency with objective standards, an affordable housing application within 90 days of submission. After 60 days, the City shall provide the applicant with an exhaustive list of objective standards not met by the project, and how the standards could or should be met. For projects with 150 units or more, these time frames shall be 90 and 180 days, respectively. The time under these provisions will toll between the City's issuance of a letter describing inconsistency with objective standards and the time necessary for the applicant to respond to those items.

Council directs the Planning Commission and staff to codify an Affordable Housing Overlay for 100% affordable housing as specified above in 2021-2022 work plans in anticipation of 2023-2031 RHNA cycle. Staff and the commission should build upon the framework established in Government Code Section 65915 as well as municipal implementations of Affordable Housing Overlays in other jurisdictions.

## BACKGROUND

Berkeley has made insufficient progress on meeting its state-mandated Regional Housing Need Allocation (RHNA) goals for low- and moderate-income housing in the 2014-2022 RHNA cycle. As recently as the city's 2020<sup>1</sup> Housing Pipeline Report, the city had only fulfilled 23% of its moderate-income RHNA goals, 21% of its RHNA goals for Very-Low Income households, and a mere 4% for Low-Income households. Berkeley's next RHNA cycle is estimated to mandate roughly 3 times as many units<sup>2</sup> as the previous cycle's total of 2,959 units across all income tiers. SB-330 by Sen. Nancy Skinner (D-Berkeley), passed in 2019, requires municipal general plans to zone adequately to meet residential capacity mandated by RHNA goals and state-certified Housing Elements.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City\\_Council/2020/07\\_Jul/Documents/2020-07-28\\_Item\\_45\\_Annual\\_Housing\\_Pipeline\\_Report.aspx&sa=U&ved=2ahUKEwjc3tDIntHuAhXWu54KHdyGAtAQFjABegQICRAC&usg=AOvVaw0eXQ4oP5AAL14h0lphPdr](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City_Council/2020/07_Jul/Documents/2020-07-28_Item_45_Annual_Housing_Pipeline_Report.aspx&sa=U&ved=2ahUKEwjc3tDIntHuAhXWu54KHdyGAtAQFjABegQICRAC&usg=AOvVaw0eXQ4oP5AAL14h0lphPdr)

<sup>2</sup> [https://abag.ca.gov/sites/default/files/draft\\_rhna\\_allocation\\_presentation\\_to\\_exec\\_bd\\_jan\\_21.pdf](https://abag.ca.gov/sites/default/files/draft_rhna_allocation_presentation_to_exec_bd_jan_21.pdf)

Affordable housing will continue to be a high priority, but nonprofit affordable housing developers may face stiff competition for scarce land with market-rate developers, particularly during an anticipated period of economic recovery. In 2019, Governor Newsom signed AB-1763 by Assembly member David Chiu (D-SF), amending California Government Code 65915 to confer greater fiscal advantages for 100% affordable housing developments through state density bonus law. The bill prohibits minimum parking requirements (which Berkeley has recently removed) and grants an increase of up to 33' in permitted height, with a waiver on density restrictions for projects located within a half-mile of major transit stops.

When the 42-unit affordable housing project at Harpers Crossing opened in Berkeley, at a total project cost of \$18 million, over 700 seniors applied. Without substantial funding and square footage for affordable housing, the City of Berkeley will be increasingly challenged to create enough subsidized housing to meet increasing demand. Increased allowable density and streamlined approvals for affordable housing will also be key to meeting Berkeley's RHNA goals for low- and moderate-income housing.

### RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

As of 2019, development costs in the San Francisco Bay Area averaged \$600,000 for new housing funded by 9% Low Income Housing Tax Credits.<sup>3</sup> At this cost, building nearly 4,000 housing units for low- and very low-income households would cost roughly \$2.5 billion, several orders of magnitude larger than the City of Berkeley's General Fund and Measure O bond funding.

Additional density bonuses and ministerial approval could reduce costs for affordable housing and increase Berkeley's capacity to meet its RHNA goals for low- and moderate-income housing. Increasing height limits allows smaller sites to fit enough homes to reach the economy of scale needed for affordable housing. According to an October 2014 report on affordable housing development by several state housing agencies, "for each 10 percent increase in the number of units, the cost per unit declines by 1.7 percent."<sup>4</sup> A 2020 study by UC Berkeley's Turner Center on affordable housing projects funded by 9% Low Income Housing Tax Credits reported: "On average, efficiencies of scale translate into a reduction of about \$1,162 for every additional unit in a project."<sup>5</sup>

Increased density and streamlined, predictable permitting processes through ministerial review can increase the amount of affordable housing that limited public subsidies are

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<sup>3</sup> Reid, C. (2020). The Costs of Affordable Housing Production: Insights from California's 9% Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program. *UC Berkeley Turner Center for Housing Innovation*. Retrieved from [https://turnercenter.berkeley.edu/wp-content/uploads/pdfs/LIHTC\\_Construction\\_Costs\\_March\\_2020.pdf](https://turnercenter.berkeley.edu/wp-content/uploads/pdfs/LIHTC_Construction_Costs_March_2020.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> California Department of Housing and Community Development, et al. (2014). Affordable Housing Cost Study: Analysis of the Factors that Influence the Cost of Building Multi-Family Affordable Housing in California. Retrieved from [https://www.treasurer.ca.gov/ctcac/affordable\\_housing.pdf](https://www.treasurer.ca.gov/ctcac/affordable_housing.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> See footnote 3.

able to provide. By-right permitting is associated with increased housing supply and price elasticity<sup>6</sup> and lower “soft costs,” which is particularly beneficial to projects funded by Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC)<sup>7</sup>, with complex financing structures that may risk loss of funding due to uncertainty and delays in the permit process.<sup>8</sup>

There is existing precedent in the state of California for meeting low-income RHNA goals with an Affordable Housing Overlay. In eastern Contra Costa County, the newly-incorporated city of Oakley established an Affordable Housing Overlay in 2005, which has yielded 7 affordable housing developments totaling 509 housing units combined as of 2019.<sup>9</sup> Despite local opposition to low-income housing, the AHO enabled the city to obtain state certification for its first 2001-2007 Housing Element, procure funding from the county, and meet its low-income RHNA goals by rezoning 16.3 acres for multifamily housing.

According to the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), 28 jurisdictions in the 9-county Bay Area have some form of Housing Overlay Zone policy.<sup>10</sup>

According to a 2010 fact sheet by Public Advocates and East Bay Housing Organizations (EBHO), “the more valuable the developer incentives included in a Housing Overlay Zone, the more effective the HOZ will be in encouraging production of homes that people can afford. Desirable incentives both motivate developers to take advantage of the HOZ, and reduce development costs to allow construction of more affordable homes.”<sup>11</sup>

The City Council of Cambridge, Massachusetts passed an Affordable Housing Overlay amendment to its zoning code in October of 2020.<sup>12</sup> The City Council of Somerville, MA passed a similar zoning ordinance in December of 2020. These zoning overlays permit greater height and density for ministerial approval 100% Below Market-Rate housing developments, following objective design criteria, in residential and commercial zones.

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<sup>6</sup> Mayer, C. J., & Somerville, C. T. (2000). Land use regulation and new construction. *Regional Science and Urban Economics*, 30(6), 639–662. doi:10.1016/s0166-0462(00)00055-7

<sup>7</sup> Hoyt, H. (2020). More is Less? An Inquiry into Design and Construction Strategies for Addressing Multifamily Housing Costs. *Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University*. Retrieved from [https://www.jchs.harvard.edu/sites/default/files/media/imp/harvard\\_jchs\\_gramlich\\_design\\_and\\_construction\\_strategies\\_multifamily\\_hoyt\\_2020\\_3.pdf](https://www.jchs.harvard.edu/sites/default/files/media/imp/harvard_jchs_gramlich_design_and_construction_strategies_multifamily_hoyt_2020_3.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> Kendall, M. (2019, Nov. 24). Is California’s most controversial new housing production law working? *Mercury News*. Retrieved from <https://www.mercurynews.com/2019/11/24/is-californias-most-controversial-new-housing-production-law-working/>

<sup>9</sup> UC Berkeley Terner Center for Housing Innovation. (2019). Affordable Housing Overlays: Oakley. Retrieved from [https://ternercenter.berkeley.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Affordable\\_Housing\\_Overlay\\_Zones\\_Oakley.pdf](https://ternercenter.berkeley.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Affordable_Housing_Overlay_Zones_Oakley.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> <http://housing.abag.ca.gov/policysearch>

<sup>11</sup> [http://www.friendsofrpe.org/files/HOZ\\_Fact\\_Sheet\\_FINAL\\_7-27-10%282%29.pdf](http://www.friendsofrpe.org/files/HOZ_Fact_Sheet_FINAL_7-27-10%282%29.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> Sennott, A. (2020). Mayor: ‘An important social justice moment.’ Councilors pass Affordable Housing Overlay after more than 20 community meetings. *WickedLocal.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.wickedlocal.com/story/cambridge-chronicle-tab/2020/10/06/an-important-social-justice-moment-cambridge-councilors-pass-affordable-housing-overlay/114657068/>

The intent of these ordinances is to increase the availability of infill sites with an advantage for affordable housing development where nonprofit and public entities may otherwise be unable to compete in the private market, as well as promoting a more equitable distribution of affordable housing in cities where class and racial segregation still mirrors the historical legacy of redlining and Jim Crow-era racial covenants.

These ordinances preserve open space requirements and comport with restrictions on historic districts. The Somerville<sup>13</sup> and Cambridge<sup>14</sup> Overlays were overwhelmingly supported by nonprofit affordable housing developers and activists. The city of Boston is now considering similar proposals.<sup>15</sup>

Prior to the introduction of the city's Affordable Housing Overlay policy, Somerville City Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen, chair of the council's Land Use Committee, directed city staff to survey the region's affordable housing. "Overwhelmingly, we heard about two obstacles," Ewen-Campen wrote.<sup>16</sup>

*First, and most obviously, is the cost of land. Today, it is nearly impossible for any non-profit housing developer to purchase property in Somerville. This is no surprise: they are competing against "market rate" developers and investors who can afford to pay far more because they'll soon be making windfall profits in our red-hot real estate market. Second, the funding agencies that support affordable housing are looking for predictability and certainty in the projects they support. This means that the uncertainty, delays, and discretionary nature of the permitting process in Somerville can be a major issue when attempting to secure funding. Together, these two obstacles mean that new affordable units in Somerville are almost always created by market rate developers through Somerville's "20% inclusionary zoning" policy, which is absolutely necessary but nowhere near sufficient to meet Somerville's goals for affordability.*

Affordable housing nonprofits in California face similar fiscal and regulatory barriers to developing much-needed low- and moderate-income housing. While Berkeley does not have an abundance of vacant and/or publicly-owned land close to transit to help meet these goals, an Affordable Housing Overlay permitting more density for residential uses on commercial corridors for 100% affordable housing can tap into a larger subset of commercial parcels with residential potential in the city. According to a study by the UC

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<sup>13</sup> Taliesin, J. (2020). Somerville moves to facilitate local affordable housing development. *WickedLocal.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.wickedlocal.com/story/somerville-journal/2020/11/23/residents-support-citys-move-ease-affordable-housing-development/6328944002/>

<sup>14</sup> Eisner, D. (2020). The Historic Affordable Housing Overlay Is about to Pass. How Did It Overcome so Many Obstacles? *A Better Cambridge*. Retrieved from <https://www.abettercambridge.org/the-historic-affordable-housing-overlay-is-about-to-pass-how-did-it-overcome-so-many-obstacles>

<sup>15</sup> Logan, T. (2020). Boston to consider looser zoning for affordable housing. *The Boston Herald*. Retrieved from <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2020/08/24/business/boston-mull-looser-zoning-affordable-housing/>

<sup>16</sup> Ewen-Campen, B. (2020). We need a city-wide 'Affordable Housing Overlay District' in Somerville. *The Somerville Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.thesomervilletimes.com/archives/103539>

Berkeley Turner Center for Housing Innovation, mid-sized cities in the San Francisco Bay Area have an average of 32.4% of land zoned for commercial uses, and this land tends to be evenly distributed between high- and low-opportunity neighborhoods as defined by the state's Tax Credit Allocation Committee.<sup>17</sup>

An overlay for 100% affordable housing with density bonuses and ministerial review would be critical for ensuring that residential zoning does not exclude affordable housing for low- and moderate-income households from high-opportunity neighborhoods, a necessary precondition for the city to comply with fair housing law.

Pursuant to Assembly Bill 686 (Santiago) passed in 2018, jurisdictions are required to produce housing elements that comply with the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing rule published by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on July 16, 2015. The bill defines this requirement in the context of housing elements as “taking meaningful actions that, taken together, address significant disparities in housing needs and in access to opportunity, replacing segregated living patterns with truly integrated and balanced living patterns, transforming racially and ethnically concentrated areas of poverty into areas of opportunity, and fostering and maintaining compliance with civil rights and fair housing laws.”<sup>18</sup>

Zoning standards that prohibit densities needed for more affordable housing in high-opportunity neighborhoods risk exacerbating gentrification and displacement. According to research by the UC Berkeley Urban Displacement Project, 83% of today's gentrifying areas were rated “hazardous” or “declining” by the Home Owners Loan Corporation (HOLC), in part due to their Black and Asian populations, and denied federal mortgage insurance in the agency's infamous redlining maps of the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century. “Desirable” neighborhoods with federal mortgage insurance were restricted to white homebuyers, and 75% of those neighborhoods are still measurably exclusionary today.<sup>19</sup>

The Urban Displacement Project has also reported that “subsidized housing is twice as effective as market-rate housing in mitigating displacement,” and Cash & Zuk (2019) recommend “equitable development considerations” which include “open[ing] up high-opportunity neighborhoods to low-income households.”<sup>20</sup> Additionally, the researchers recommend local preference or right to return policies “to stabilize neighborhoods as

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<sup>17</sup> Romem, I. & Garcia, D. (2020). Residential Redevelopment of Commercially Zoned Land in California. *UC Berkeley Turner Center for Housing Innovation*. Retrieved from <https://turnercenter.berkeley.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Residential-Redevelopment-of-Commercially-Zoned-Land-in-California-December-2020.pdf>

<sup>18</sup> [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201720180AB686](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB686)

<sup>19</sup> Cash, A. (2020). Redlining in Berkeley: the Past is Present. *Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board*. Retrieved from [https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Rent\\_Stabilization\\_Board/Level\\_3\\_-\\_General/SPECIAL\\_Item%206\\_Redlining%20in%20Berkeley%20presentation\\_02.20.20\\_FINAL\(2\).pdf](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Rent_Stabilization_Board/Level_3_-_General/SPECIAL_Item%206_Redlining%20in%20Berkeley%20presentation_02.20.20_FINAL(2).pdf)

<sup>20</sup> Cash, A & Zuk, M. (2019). Investment Without Displacement: From Slogan to Strategy. *Shelterforce*. Retrieved from <https://shelterforce.org/2019/06/21/investment-without-displacement-from-slogan-to-strategy/>

new developments take root,” and the City of Berkeley has implemented a local preference policy as part of the Adeline Corridor Specific Plan.<sup>21</sup>

As the Home for All SMC Housing Overlay Zone fact sheet explains: “In locations where the zoning doesn’t allow residential development, HOZs can enable housing construction while avoiding the lengthy process of amending a general plan.”<sup>22</sup> This proposal only refers broad recommendations for general plan amendments to the Planning Commission to align intended outcomes of the Affordable Housing Overlay with general plan revisions that will result from the upcoming Housing Element update, but a robust Overlay can continue to promote 100% affordable housing development in future cycles when general plan amendments are not under consideration.

Additionally, an enhanced density bonus program with robust skilled and trained workforce requirements can incorporate consistent labor standards<sup>23</sup> into beneficial economies of scale.

### ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Due to aforementioned state laws, there is no alternative in which the City of Berkeley does not rezone certain areas to meet its upcoming RHNA goals and have a certified Housing Element. While the city could simply abide by the standards set forth in AB-1763 with no additional incentives or streamlining for 100% affordable housing, this would risk insufficiently prioritizing low- and moderate-income housing, and is inconsistent with goals already identified by the City Manager’s office to reduce homelessness and housing insecurity.

The City Manager’s 1000 Person Plan to End Homelessness<sup>24</sup> includes among its strategic recommendations:

*“Continue implementing changes to Berkeley’s Land Use, Zoning, and Development Review Requirements for new housing with an eye towards alleviating homelessness. If present economic trends continue, the pace with which new housing is currently being built in Berkeley will likely not allow for a declining annual homeless population. Berkeley should continue to streamline development approval processes and reform local policies to help increase the overall supply of housing available.”*

### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Research from UC Berkeley scholars and the CoolClimate Network<sup>25</sup> finds that urban infill offers one of the greatest potential policy levers for municipalities to reduce their

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<sup>21</sup> [https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Planning\\_and\\_Development/Level\\_3\\_-\\_Land\\_Use\\_Division/Adeline%20Corridor%20Specific%20Plan%20Nov.%202020.pdf](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Planning_and_Development/Level_3_-_Land_Use_Division/Adeline%20Corridor%20Specific%20Plan%20Nov.%202020.pdf)

<sup>22</sup> <https://homeforallsmc.org/toolkits/housing-overlay-zones/>

<sup>23</sup> [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202120220SB7](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB7)

<sup>24</sup> [https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City\\_Council/2019/02\\_Feb/Documents/2019-02-26\\_Item\\_20\\_Referral\\_Response\\_1000\\_Person\\_Plan.aspx](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City_Council/2019/02_Feb/Documents/2019-02-26_Item_20_Referral_Response_1000_Person_Plan.aspx)

<sup>25</sup> Jones, C. et al. (2017). Carbon Footprint Planning: Quantifying Local and State Mitigation

greenhouse gas emissions. Incentives for affordable housing, such as density bonuses, also offer potential to reduce per capita VMT by increasing housing options in Berkeley and shortening commute times for a greater share of the local workforce. In an analysis of 252 California Cities, Durst (2021) finds that “each additional affordable housing incentive is associated with a 0.37 percentage point decrease in the share of workers who commute more than 30 minutes.”<sup>26</sup>

An Affordable Housing Overlay coupled with the city’s Local Preference policy could reduce Berkeley’s transportation emissions by reducing per capita VMT pursuant to goals established in the city’s Climate Action Plan.

### FISCAL IMPACTS

TBD.

The City Manager’s 1000 Person Plan to End Homelessness notes that the fiscal impact of land use reform “could not be quantified” at the time the report was issued.

### CONTACT

Councilmember Terry Taplin (District 2), 510-983-7120, [ttaplin@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:ttaplin@cityofberkeley.info)

### ATTACHMENTS/SUPPORTING MATERIALS

1. Berkeley AHO Infographic with art by by Alfred Twu ([reflects previous draft](#))
2. Cambridge, MA: Ordinance No. 2020-8
3. Assembly Bill 1763 (2019)

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Opportunities for 700 California Cities. *Urban Planning*, 3(2). doi:10.17645/up.v3i2.1218.

<sup>26</sup> Durst, N. J. (2021). Residential Land Use Regulation and the Spatial Mismatch between Housing and Employment Opportunities in California Cities. *Turner Center for Housing Innovation*. Retrieved from <http://californialanduse.org/download/Durst%20Residential%20Land%20Use%20Regulation%202020.pdf>

## Low Density Zones (R-1, R-1A, R-2, R-2A)



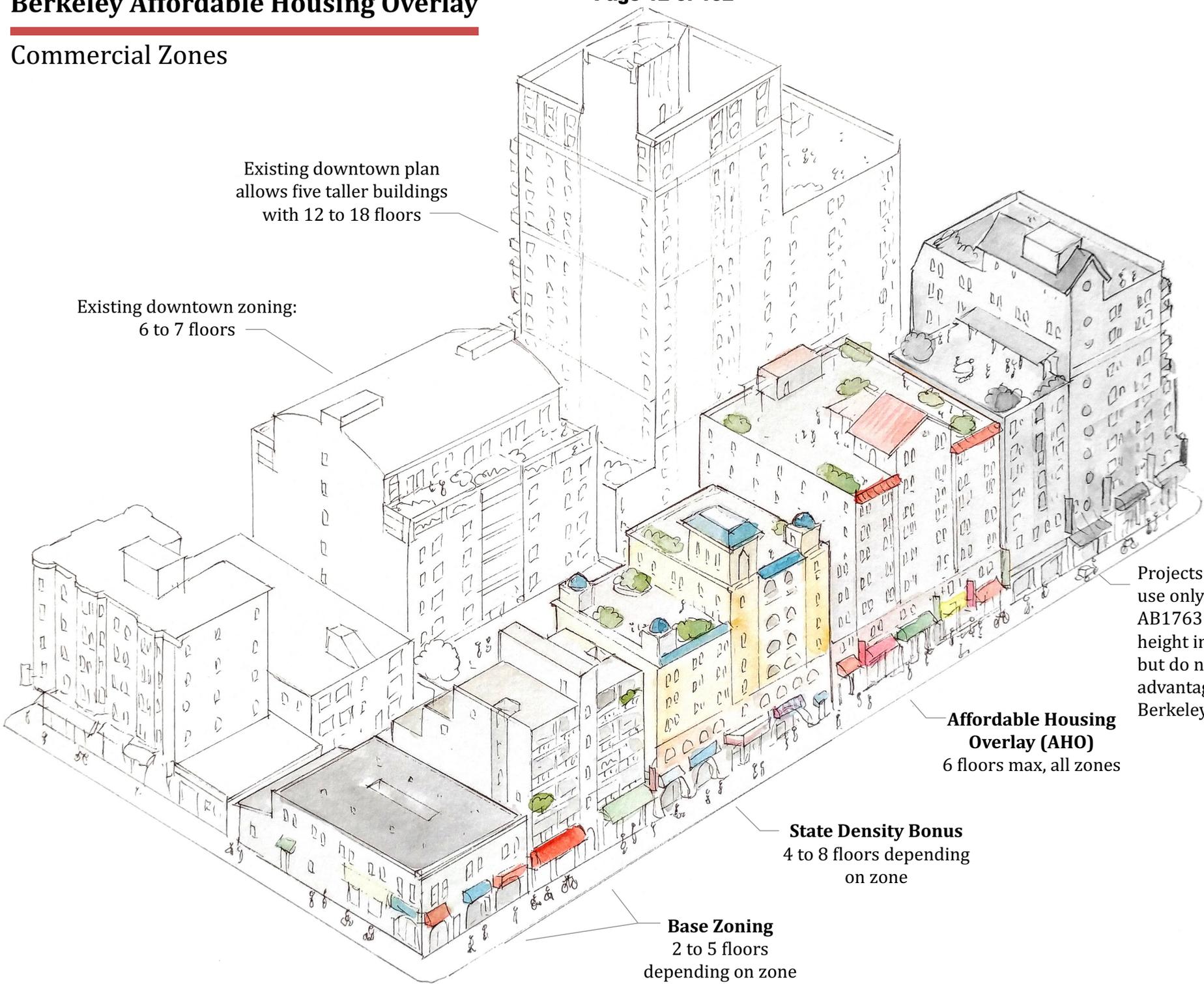
## Medium Density Zones (R-3, R-4)



## Commercial Zones

Existing downtown plan allows five taller buildings with 12 to 18 floors

Existing downtown zoning: 6 to 7 floors



Projects that choose to use only state law AB1763 may have more height in some zones, but do not get other advantages of using the Berkeley AHO

**Affordable Housing Overlay (AHO)**  
6 floors max, all zones

**State Density Bonus**  
4 to 8 floors depending on zone

**Base Zoning**  
2 to 5 floors depending on zone

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-8 – First Publication

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

In the Year Two Thousand and Twenty

AN ORDINANCE

ORDERED: That the attached proposed zoning ordinance establishing an Affordable Housing Overlay be submitted by the City Council, and that it be referred to the Committee on Ordinances and the Planning Board for public hearings, as provided in Chapter 40A, Section 5 of the Massachusetts General Laws, to wit:

ORDERED: That the Cambridge City Council amend Section 2.000, DEFINITIONS, of the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Cambridge amended to insert the following definitions alphabetically:

**Affordable Housing Overlay (AHO).** A set of modified development standards set forth in Section 11.207.3 of this Zoning Ordinance intended to allow incremental increases in density, limited increases in height, and relaxation of certain other zoning limitations for residential developments in which all units are made permanently affordable to households earning up to 100% of area median income.

**Affordable Housing Overlay (AHO) Dwelling Unit.** A dwelling unit within an AHO Project for which occupancy is restricted to an AHO Eligible Household and whose rent or initial sale price is established by the provisions of Section 11.207.3 of this Zoning Ordinance.

**Affordable Housing Overlay (AHO) Eligible Household.** A household whose gross household income does not exceed the amounts set forth in Section 11.207.3 of this Zoning Ordinance.

**Affordable Housing Overlay (AHO) Project.** The construction of a new building or buildings and/or the modification of an existing building or buildings resulting in single-family, two-family, townhouse, or multifamily dwellings within which each dwelling unit is an AHO Dwelling Unit subject to the standards and restrictions set forth in Section 11.207 of this Zoning Ordinance.

**Grade.** The mean finished ground elevation of a lot measured either around the entire perimeter of the building or along any existing wall facing a public street, which ground elevation is maintained naturally without any structural support.

**Ground Story or Ground Floor.** The lowest Story Above Grade within a building. Story. That portion of a building included between the upper surface of a floor and the upper surface of the floor or roof next above.

**Story Above Grade.** A Story whose highest point is more than 4 feet above the Grade.

**Story Below Grade.** Any Story that is lower than the Ground Story of a building.

ORDERED: That the Cambridge City Council amend of the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Cambridge, by inserting a new section 11.207, **AFFORDABLE HOUSING OVERLAY**, to read as follows:

11.207.1 Purpose and Intent

The purpose of this Section is to promote the public good by supporting the development of housing that is affordable to households earning up to 100% of area median income. The intent of this Section is to allow incremental increases in density, limited increases in height, and relaxation of certain other zoning limitations for residential developments in which all units are made permanently affordable to households earning up to 100% of area median income (referred to as “AHO Projects,” as defined in Article 2.000 of this Zoning Ordinance); to incentivize the reuse of existing buildings in order to create AHO Projects that are more compatible with established neighborhood character; to promote the city’s urban design objectives in Section 19.30 of this Zoning Ordinance while enabling AHO Projects to be permitted as-of-right, subject to non-binding advisory design consultation procedures that follow all design objectives set forth within this Zoning Ordinance and the results of the design review process shall be provided to the Cambridge Affordable Housing Trust; and to apply such standards throughout the City, to promote city planning goals of achieving greater socioeconomic diversity and a more equitable distribution of affordable housing citywide.

11.207.2 Applicability

- (a) The provisions set forth in this Section shall apply to AHO Projects, as defined in Article 2.000 of this Zoning Ordinance, in all zoning districts except Open Space Districts.
- (b) An AHO Project shall be permitted as-of-right if it meets all of the standards set forth in this Affordable Housing Overlay in place of the requirements otherwise applicable in the zoning district. Any development not meeting all of

the standards set forth in this Affordable Housing Overlay shall be subject to the requirements otherwise applicable in the zoning district, including any requirements for special permits.

11.207.3 Standards for Eligibility, Rent, and Initial Sale Price for AHO Dwelling Units

- (a) All dwelling units in an AHO Project shall comply with the standards for AHO Dwelling Units as set forth in this Section.
- (b) For all AHO Dwelling Units:
  - (i) AHO Dwelling Units shall be rented or sold only to AHO Eligible Households, with preference given to Cambridge residents, and former Cambridge residents who experienced a no-fault eviction in Cambridge in the last twelve (12) months, in accordance with standards and procedures related to selection, asset limits, and marketing established by the Community Development Department (CDD) and applicable state funding requirements.
  - (ii) AHO Dwelling Units shall be created and conveyed subject to recorded covenants approved by CDD guaranteeing the permanent availability of the AHO Dwelling Units for AHO Eligible Households.
- (c) For rental AHO Dwelling Units:
  - (i) The gross household income of an AHO Eligible Household upon initial occupancy shall be no more than one-hundred percent (100%) of AMI.
  - (ii) At least eighty percent (80%) of AHO Dwelling Units within the project shall be occupied by AHO Eligible Households whose gross household income upon initial occupancy is no more than eighty percent (80%) of AMI.
  - (iii) Rent, including utilities and any other fees routinely charged to tenants and approved by CDD, shall not exceed thirty percent (30%) of the gross household income of the AHO Eligible Household occupying the AHO Dwelling Unit or other similar standard pursuant to an applicable housing subsidy program which has been approved by CDD.

- (iv) After initial occupancy, the gross household income of an AHO Eligible Household shall be verified annually, or on such other basis required by an applicable housing subsidy program which has been approved by CDD, to determine continued eligibility and rent, in accordance with policies, standards, and procedures established by CDD.
  - (v) An AHO Eligible Household may continue to rent an AHO Dwelling Unit after initial occupancy even if the AHO Eligible Household's gross household income exceeds the eligibility limits set forth above, but may not exceed one hundred twenty percent (120%) of AMI for more than one year after that Eligible Household's gross household income has been verified to exceed such percentage, unless otherwise restricted pursuant to an applicable housing subsidy program which has been approved by CDD.
  - (vi) Notwithstanding the requirements set forth in (i) through (v) above, an owner may voluntarily choose to charge a lower rent than as provided herein for AHO Dwelling Units.
- (d) For owner-occupied AHO Dwelling Units:
- (i) The gross household income of an AHO Eligible Household upon initial occupancy shall be no more than one-hundred percent (100%) of AMI.
  - (ii) At least fifty percent (50%) of AHO Dwelling Units shall be sold to AHO Eligible Households whose gross household income upon initial occupancy is no more than eighty percent (80%) of AMI.
  - (iii) The initial sale price of an AHO Dwelling Unit shall be approved by CDD and shall be determined to ensure that the monthly housing payment (which shall include debt service at prevailing mortgage loan interest rates, utilities, condominium or related fees, insurance, real estate taxes, and parking fees, if any) shall not exceed thirty percent (30%) of the monthly income of:
    - 1) A household earning ninety percent (90%) of AMI, in the case of an AHO Dwelling Unit to be sold to an AHO Eligible Household whose income upon initial

occupancy is no more than one-hundred percent (100%) of AMI; or

- 2) A household earning seventy percent (70%) of AMI, in the case of an AHO Dwelling Unit to be sold to an AHO Eligible Household whose income upon initial occupancy is no more than eighty percent (80%) of AMI
- (e) An AHO Project meeting the standards set forth herein as approved by CDD shall not be required to comply with the Inclusionary Housing Requirements set forth in 11.203 of this Zoning Ordinance.

#### 11.207.4 Use

- (a) In all zoning districts, an AHO Project may contain single-family, two-family, townhouse, or multifamily dwellings as-of-right. Townhouse and Multifamily Special Permit procedures shall not apply.
- (b) An AHO Project may contain active non-residential uses on the ground floor as they may be permitted as-of-right in the base zoning district or the overlay district(s) that are applicable to a lot, which for the purpose of this Section shall be limited to Institutional Uses listed in Section 4.33, Office Uses listed in Section 4.34 Paragraphs a. through e., and Retail and Consumer Service uses listed in Section 4.35 that provide services to the general public.

#### 11.207.5 Development Standards

##### 11.207.5.1 General Provisions

- (a) For the purposes of this Section, the phrase “District Development Standards” shall refer to the development standards of the base zoning district as they may be modified by the development standards of all overlay districts (with the exception of this Affordable Housing Overlay) that are applicable to a lot.
- (b) District Dimensional Standards shall include the most permissive standards allowable on a lot, whether such standards are permitted as-of-right or allowable by special permit. A District Dimensional Standard that is allowable by special permit shall include any nondiscretionary requirements or limitations that would otherwise apply.

- (c) An AHO Project that conforms to the following development standards shall not be subject to other limitations that may be set forth in Article 5.000 or other Sections of this Zoning Ordinance, except as otherwise stated in this Section.

11.207.5.2 Dimensional Standards for AHO Projects

11.207.5.2.1 Building Height and Stories Above Grade. For an AHO Project, the standards set forth below shall apply in place of any building height limitations set forth in the District Development Standards.

- (a) Where the District Dimensional Standards set forth a maximum residential building height of forty (40) feet or less, an AHO Project shall contain no more than four (4) Stories Above Grade and shall have a maximum height of forty-five (45) feet, as measured from existing Grade. For AHO Projects containing active non-residential uses on the ground floor, the maximum height may be increased to fifty (50) feet but the number of Stories Above Grade shall not exceed four (4) stories.
- (b) Where the District Dimensional Standards set forth a maximum residential building height of more than forty (40) feet but not more than fifty (50) feet, an AHO Project shall contain no more than six (6) Stories Above Grade and shall have a maximum height of sixty-five (65) feet, as measured from existing Grade, except as further limited below. For AHO Projects containing active non-residential uses on the ground floor, the maximum height may be increased to seventy (70) feet but the number of Stories Above Grade shall not exceed six (6) stories.
  - (i) Except where the AHO Project abuts a non-residential use, portions of an AHO Project that are within thirty-five (35) feet of a district whose District Dimensional Standards allow a maximum residential building height of forty (40) feet or less shall be limited by the provisions of Paragraph (a) above, except that if the AHO project parcel extends into that District, then the height limitation shall only extend thirty five (35) feet from the property line.
- (c) Where the District Dimensional Standards set forth a maximum residential building height of more than fifty (50) feet, an AHO Project shall contain no more than seven (7) Stories Above Grade and shall have a maximum height

of eighty (80) feet, as measured from existing Grade, except as further limited below.

- (i) Except where the AHO Project abuts a non-residential use, portions of an AHO Project that are within thirty-five (35) feet of a district whose District Dimensional Standards allow a maximum residential building height of forty (40) feet or less shall be reduced to a minimum of five (5) Stories Above Grade or a maximum height of sixty (60) feet, as measured from existing Grade, except that if the AHO project parcel extends into that District, then the height limitation shall only extend thirty five (35) feet from the property line.
- (d) The Height Exceptions set forth in Section 5.23 of this Zoning Ordinance shall apply when determining the building height of an AHO Project.

#### 11.207.5.2.2 Residential Density

- (a) Where the District Dimensional Standards establish a maximum floor area ratio (FAR) of less than 1.00, an AHO Project shall not exceed an FAR of 2.00. Otherwise, there shall be no maximum FAR for an AHO Project.
- (b) There shall be no minimum lot area per dwelling unit for an AHO Project.

#### 11.207.5.2.3 Yard Setbacks

- (a) For the purpose of this Section, the applicable District Dimensional Standards shall not include yard setback requirements based on a formula calculation as provided in Section 5.24.4 of the Zoning Ordinance, but shall include non-derived minimum yard setback requirements set forth in Article 5.000 or other Sections of this Zoning Ordinance.
- (b) Front Yards. An AHO Project shall have a minimum front yard setback of 15 feet, except where the District Dimensional Standards establish a less restrictive requirement, or may be reduced to the average of the front yard setbacks of the four (4) nearest pre-existing principal buildings that contain at least two Stories Above Grade and directly front the same side of the street as the AHO Project, or may be reduced to a minimum of ten (10) feet in the case of an AHO Project on a corner lot. Where the District Dimensional Standards set forth different requirements for residential and non-residential uses, the

non-residential front yard setback requirement shall apply to the entire AHO Project if the Ground Story contains a non-residential use as set forth in Section 11.207.4 Paragraph (b) above; otherwise, the residential front yard setback shall apply.

- (c) Side Yards. An AHO Project shall have a minimum side yard setback of seven and one-half (7.5) feet, or may be reduced to the minimum side yard setback set forth in the District Dimensional Standards for residential uses that is not derived by formula if it is less restrictive.
- (d) Rear Yards. An AHO Project shall have a minimum rear yard setback of twenty (20) feet, or may be reduced to the minimum rear yard setback set forth in the District Dimensional Standards for residential uses that is not derived by formula if it is less restrictive.
- (e) Projecting eaves, chimneys, bay windows, balconies, open fire escapes and like projections which do not project more than three and one-half (3.5) feet from the principal exterior wall plane, and unenclosed steps, unroofed porches and the like which do not project more than ten (10) feet beyond the line of the foundation wall and which are not over four (4) feet above Grade, may extend beyond the minimum yard setback.
- (f) Bicycle parking spaces, whether short-term or long-term, and appurtenant structures such as coverings, sheds, or storage lockers may be located within a required yard setback but no closer than seven and one-half (7.5) feet to an existing principal residential structure on an abutting lot.

#### 11.207.5.2.4 Open Space

- (a) Except where the District Dimensional Standards establish a less restrictive requirement or as otherwise provided below, the minimum percentage of open space to lot area for an AHO Project shall be thirty percent (30%). However, the minimum percentage of open space to lot area may be reduced to no less than fifteen percent (15%) if the AHO Project includes the preservation and protection of an existing building included on the State Register of Historic Places.
- (b) The required open space shall be considered Private Open Space but shall be subject to the limitations set forth below and shall not be subject to the dimensional and other limitations set forth in Section 5.22 of this Zoning

Ordinance. Private Open Space shall exclude parking and driveways for automobiles.

- (c) All of the required open space that is located at grade shall meet the definition of Permeable Open Space as set forth in this Zoning Ordinance.
- (d) The required open space shall be located at Grade or on porches and decks that are no higher than the floor elevation of the lowest Story Above Grade, except that up to twenty five percent (25%) of the required open space may be located at higher levels, such as balconies and decks, only if it is accessible to all occupants of the building.
- (e) For the purpose of this Affordable Housing Overlay, area used for covered or uncovered bicycle parking spaces that are not contained within a building shall be considered Private Open Space.

#### 11.207.5.3 Standards for Existing Buildings

A building that is in existence as of the effective date of this Ordinance and does not conform to the standards set forth in Section 11.207.5.2 above may be altered, reconstructed, extended, relocated, and/or enlarged for use as an AHO Project as-of-right in accordance with the standards set forth below. Except as otherwise stated, the required dimensional characteristics of the building and site shall be those existing at the time of the conversion to an AHO Project if they do not conform to the standards of Section 11.207.5.2. The following modifications shall be permitted as-of-right, notwithstanding the limitations set forth in Article 8.000 of this Zoning Ordinance:

- (a) Construction occurring entirely within an existing structure, including the addition of Gross Floor Area within the interior of the existing building envelope that may violate or further violate FAR limitations set forth in Section 11.207.5.2, and including any increase to the number of dwelling units within the existing building, provided that the resulting number of Stories Above Grade is not more than the greater of the existing number of Stories Above Grade or the existing height of the building divided by 10 feet.
- (b) The relocation, enlargement, or addition of windows, doors, skylights, or similar openings to the exterior of a building.

- (c) The addition of insulation to the exterior of an existing exterior wall to improve energy efficiency, provided that the resulting exterior plane of the wall shall either conform to the yard setback standards set forth in Section 11.207.5.2 above or shall not intrude more than eight (8) inches further into the existing yard setback and provided that the lot shall either conform to the open space standards set forth in Section 11.207.5.2 or shall not decrease the existing open space by more than 5% or 100 square feet, whichever is greater.
- (d) The installation of exterior features necessary for the existing structure to be adapted to meet accessibility standards for persons with disabilities, including but not limited to walkways, ramps, lifts, or elevators, which may violate or further violate of the dimensional requirements set forth in Section 11.207.5.2.
- (e) The repair, reconstruction, or replacement of any preexisting nonconforming portions of a building including but not limited to porches, decks, balconies, bay windows and building additions, provided that the repair, reconstruction or replacement does not exceed the original in footprint, volume, or area.
- (f) Any other alterations, additions, extensions, or enlargements to the existing building that are not further in violation of the dimensional requirements set forth in Section 11.207.5.2 above.

#### 11.207.6 Parking and Bicycle Parking

The limitations set forth in Article 6.000 of this Zoning Ordinance shall be modified as set forth below for an AHO Project.

##### 11.207.6.1 Required Off-Street Accessory Parking

- (a) There shall be no required minimum number of off-street parking spaces for an AHO Project except to the extent necessary to conform to other applicable laws, codes, or regulations.
- (b) An AHO Project of greater than 20 units, for which no off-street parking is provided shall provide or have access to either on-street or off-street facilities that can accommodate passenger pick-up and drop-off by motor vehicles and short-term loading by moving vans or small delivery trucks. The Cambridge Traffic, Parking, and Transportation Department shall certify to the Superintendent of Buildings

that the AHO Project is designed to reasonably accommodate such activity without causing significant hazard or congestion. The Cambridge Director of Traffic, Parking, and Transportation shall have the authority to promulgate regulations for the implementation of the provisions of this Paragraph.

11.207.6.2 Accessory Parking Provided Off-Site

- (a) Off-street parking facilities may be shared by multiple AHO Projects, provided that the requirements of this Section are met by all AHO Dwelling Units served by the facility and the facility is within 1,000 feet of all AHO Projects that it serves.
- (b) Off-street parking facilities for an AHO Project may be located within existing parking facilities located within 1,000 feet of the AHO Project and in a district where parking is permitted as a principal use or where the facility is a pre-existing nonconforming principal use parking facility, provided that the owner of the AHO Project shall provide evidence of fee ownership, a long-term lease agreement or renewable short-term lease agreement, recorded covenant, or comparable legal instrument to guarantee, to the reasonable satisfaction of the Superintendent of Buildings, that such facilities will be available to residents of the AHO Project.

11.207.6.3 Modifications to Design and Layout Standards for Off-Street Parking

- (a) Notwithstanding Section 6.43.2, parking spaces may be arranged in tandem without requiring a special permit, provided that no more than two cars may be parked within any tandem parking space.
- (b) Notwithstanding Section 6.43.6, owners of adjacent properties may establish common driveways under mutual easements without requiring a special permit.
- (c) Notwithstanding Paragraph 6.44.1(a), on-grade open parking spaces may be located within ten (10) feet but not less than five (5) feet from the Ground Story of a building on the same lot or seven and one-half (7.5) feet from the Ground Story of a building on an adjacent lot without requiring a special permit, provided that such parking spaces are screened from buildings on abutting lots by a fence or other dense year-round visual screen.

- (d) Notwithstanding Paragraph 6.44.1(b), on-grade open parking spaces and driveways may be located within five (5) feet of a side or rear property line without requiring a special permit, provided that screening is provided in the form of a fence or other dense year-round visual screen at the property line, unless such screening is waived by mutual written agreement of the owner of the lot and the owner of the abutting lot.

#### 11.207.6.4 Modifications to Bicycle Parking Standards

- (a) Notwithstanding Section 6.104, long-term or short-term bicycle parking spaces may be located anywhere on the lot for an AHO Project or on an adjacent lot in common ownership or under common control.
- (b) Notwithstanding Section 6.107.5, up to 20 long-term bicycle parking spaces may be designed to meet the requirements for Short-Term Bicycle Parking Spaces, so long as they are covered from above to be protected from precipitation.
- (c) The requirement for short-term bicycle parking shall be waived where only four or fewer short-term bicycle parking spaces would otherwise be required.
- (d) The number of required bicycle parking spaces shall be reduced by half, up to a maximum reduction of 28 spaces, where a standard-size (19-dock) Public Bicycle Sharing Station is provided on the lot or by the developer of the AHO Project on a site within 500 feet of the lot, with the written approval of the City if located on a public street or other City property, or otherwise by legally enforceable mutual agreement with the owner of the land on which the station is located as approved by the Community Development Department. If additional Public Bicycle Sharing Station docks are provided, the number of required bicycle parking spaces may be further reduced at a rate of 0.5 bicycle parking space per additional Public Bicycle Sharing Station dock, up to a maximum reduction of half of the required number of spaces.
- (e) For AHO Dwelling Units created within an existing building, bicycle parking spaces meeting the standards of this Zoning Ordinance shall not be required but are encouraged to be provided to the extent practical given the limitations of the existing structure. Bicycle parking spaces shall be provided, as required by this Zoning Ordinance, for

dwelling units in an AHO Project that are constructed fully outside the envelope of the existing structure.

11.207.6.5 Transportation Demand Management

An AHO Project not providing off-street parking at a ratio of 0.4 space per dwelling unit or more shall provide, in writing, to the Community Development Department a Transportation Demand Management program containing the following measures, at a minimum:

- (a) Offering either a free annual membership in a Public Bicycle Sharing Service, at the highest available tier where applicable, or a 50% discounted MBTA combined subway and bus pass for six months or pass of equivalent value, to up to two individuals in each household upon initial occupancy of a unit.
- (b) Providing transit information in the form of transit maps and schedules to each household upon initial occupancy of a unit, or providing information and a real-time transit service screen in a convenient common area of the building such as an entryway or lobby.

11.207.7 Building and Site Design Standards for New Development

11.207.7.1 General Provisions

- (a) Except where otherwise stated, the Project Review requirements set forth in Article 19.000 of this Zoning Ordinance and any design standards set forth in Section 19.50 or elsewhere in the Zoning Ordinance shall be superseded by the following standards for an AHO Project.
- (b) The following design standards shall apply to new construction and to additions to existing structures. Except as otherwise provided, an existing building that is altered or moved to accommodate an AHO Project shall not be subject to the following standards, provided that such alterations do not create a condition that is in greater nonconformance with such standards than the existing condition.

11.207.7.2 Site Design and Arrangement

- (a) The area directly between the front lot line and the principal wall plane of the building nearest to the front lot line shall consist of any combination of landscaped area, hardscaped area accessible to pedestrians and bicyclists,

and usable spaces such as uncovered porches, patios, or balconies. Parking shall not be located within such area, except for driveway access which shall be limited to a total of thirty (30) feet of width for any individual driveway for each one hundred (100) feet of lot frontage.

- (b) Pedestrian entrances to buildings shall be visible from the street, except where the building itself is not visible from the street due to its location. All pedestrian entrances shall be accessible by way of access routes that are separated from motor vehicle access drives.
- (c) A building footprint exceeding two hundred and fifty (250) feet in length, measured parallel to the street, shall contain a massing recess extending back at least fifteen (15) feet in depth measured from and perpendicular to the front lot line and at least fifteen (15) feet in width measured parallel to the front lot line so that the maximum length of unbroken façade is one hundred fifty (150) feet.

#### 11.207.7.3 Building Façades

- (a) At least twenty percent (20%) of the area of building façades facing a public street or public open space shall consist of clear glass windows. For buildings located in a Business A (BA), Business A-2 (BA-2), Business B (BB) or Business C (BC) zoning district, this figure shall be increased to thirty percent (30%) for non-residential portions of the building, if any.
- (b) Building façades shall incorporate architectural elements that project or recess by at least two feet from the adjacent section of the façade. Such projecting or recessed elements shall occur on an average interval of 40 linear horizontal feet or less for portions of the façade directly facing a public street, and on an average interval of 80 linear horizontal feet or less for other portions of the façade. Such projecting or recessed elements shall not be required on the lowest Story Above Grade or on the highest Story Above Grade, and shall not be required on the highest two Stories Above Grade of a building containing at least six Stories Above Grade. The intent is to incorporate elements such as bays, balconies, cornices, shading devices, or similar architectural elements that promote visual interest and residential character, and to allow variation at the ground floor and on upper floors where a different architectural treatment may be preferable.

#### 11.207.7.4 Ground Stories and Stories Below Grade

- (a) The elevation at floor level of the Ground Story shall be at the mean Grade of the abutting public sidewalk, or above such mean Grade by not more than four feet. Active non-residential uses at the Ground Story shall be accessible directly from the sidewalk without requiring use of stairs or a lift. The requirements of this paragraph shall not apply if it is determined by the City Engineer that a higher Ground Story elevation is necessary for the purpose of flood protection.
- (b) Where structured parking is provided within the Ground Story of a building, the portion of the building immediately behind the front wall plane shall consist of residential units, common areas, or other populated portions of the building in order to screen the provided parking over at least seventy-five percent (75%) of the length of the façade measured parallel to the street and excluding portions of the façade used for driveway access. On a corner lot, the requirements of this Paragraph shall only apply along one street.
- (c) The façade of a Ground Story facing a public street shall consist of expanses no longer than twenty-five (25) feet in length, measured parallel to the street, which contain no transparent windows or pedestrian entryways.
- (d) If the Ground Story is designed to accommodate active non-residential uses, the following additional standards shall apply:
  - (i) the height of the Ground Story for that portion of the building containing active non-residential uses shall be at least fifteen (15) feet;
  - (ii) the depth of the space designed for active non-residential uses shall be at least thirty-five (35) feet on average measured from the portion of the façade that is nearest to the front lot line in a direction perpendicular to the street, and measured to at least one street in instances where the space abuts two or more streets; and
  - (iii) that portion of the Ground Story façade containing active non-residential uses shall consist of at least thirty percent (30%) transparent glass windows or, if the use is a retail or consumer service establishment, at least thirty percent (30%) transparent glass windows, across the combined façade on both streets in the case of a corner lot.

- (e) Ground Stories shall be designed to accommodate at least one space, with a total frontage equaling at least fifty percent (50%) of the existing retail frontage, for an active non-residential use, which may include retail or consumer establishments as well as social service facilities supporting the mission of the owner of the AHO Project, on sites that are located in a Business base zoning district, and where the project site contains or has contained a retail and or consumer service use at any point within the past two years prior to application for a building permit for an AHO Project.
- (f) Private living spaces within dwelling units, including bedrooms, kitchens, and bathrooms, may only be contained within Stories Above Grade. Stories Below Grade may only contain portions of dwelling units providing entries, exits, or mechanical equipment, or common facilities for residents of the building, such as lobbies, recreation rooms, laundry, storage, parking, bicycle parking, or mechanical equipment

11.207.7.5 Mechanical Equipment, Refuse Storage, and Loading Areas

- (a) All mechanical equipment, refuse storage, or loading areas serving the building or its occupants that are (1) carried above the roof, (2) located at the exterior building wall or (3) located outside the building, shall meet the requirements listed below. Mechanical equipment includes, but is not limited to, ventilation equipment including exhaust fans and ducts, air conditioning equipment, elevator bulkheads, heat exchangers, transformers and any other equipment that, when in operation, potentially creates a noise detectable off the lot. The equipment and other facilities: (a) Shall not be located within any required setback. This Paragraph (a) shall not apply to electrical equipment whose location is mandated by a recognized public utility, provided that project plans submitted for review by the City identify a preferred location for such equipment.
- (b) When on the ground, shall be permanently screened from view from adjacent public streets that are within 100 feet of the building, or from the view from abutting property in separate ownership at the property line. The screening shall consist of a dense year-round screen equal or greater in height at the time of installation than the equipment or facilities to be screened, or a fence of equal or greater

height that is comparable in quality to the materials used on the principal facades of the building, with no more than twenty-five (25) percent of the face of the fence open with adjacent planting.

- (c) When carried above the roof, shall be set back from the principal wall plane by a dimension equal to at least the height of the equipment and permanently screened from view, from the ground, from adjacent public streets and any abutting residentially used lot or lots in a residential zoning district. The screening shall be at least seventy-five percent (75%) opaque and uniformly distributed across the screening surface, or opaque to the maximum extent permissible if other applicable laws, codes, or regulations mandate greater openness.
- (d) Shall meet all city, state and federal noise regulations, as applicable, as certified by a professional acoustical engineer if the Department of Inspectional Services deems such certification necessary.
- (e) That handle trash and other waste, shall be contained within the building or screened as required in this Section until properly disposed of.

#### 11.207.7.6 Environmental Design Standards

- (a) This Section shall not waive the Green Building Requirements set forth in Section 22.20 of this Zoning Ordinance that may otherwise apply to an AHO Project.
- (b) Where the provisions of the Flood Plain Overlay District apply to an AHO Project, the performance standards set forth in Section 20.70 of this Zoning Ordinance shall apply; however, a special permit shall not be required.
- (c) An AHO Project shall be subject to other applicable laws, regulations, codes, and ordinances pertaining to environmental standards.
- (d) New outdoor light fixtures installed in an AHO Project shall be fully shielded and directed to prevent light trespass onto adjacent residential lots.

#### 11.207.8 Advisory Design Consultation Procedure

Prior to application for a building permit, the developer of an AHO Project shall comply with the following procedure, which is intended to provide an opportunity for non-binding community and staff input into the design of the project.

- (a) The intent of this non-binding review process is to advance the City's desired outcomes for the form and character of AHO Projects. To promote the City's goal of creating more affordable housing units, AHO Projects are permitted to have a greater height, scale, and density than other developments permitted by the zoning for a given district. This procedure is intended to promote design outcomes that are compatible with the existing neighborhood context or with the City's future planning objectives for the area.
- (b) The City's "Design Guidelines for Affordable Housing Overlay," along with other design objectives and guidelines established for the part of the city in which the AHO Project is located, are intended to inform the design of AHO Projects and to guide the Planning Board's consultation and report as set forth below. It is intended that designers of AHO Projects, City staff, the Planning Board, and the general public will be open to creative variations from any detailed provisions set forth in such objectives and guidelines as long as the core values expressed are being served.
- (c) At least two community meetings shall be scheduled at a time and location that is convenient to residents in proximity to the project site. The Community Development Department (CDD) shall be notified of the time and location of such meetings, and shall give notification to abutters, owners of land directly opposite on any public or private street or way, and abutters to the abutters within three hundred feet of the property line of the lot on which the AHO Project is proposed and to any individual or organization who each year files with CDD a written request for such notification, or to any other individual or organization CDD may wish to notify.
  - (i) The purpose of the first community meeting shall be for the developer to share the site and street context analysis with neighborhood residents and other interested parties prior to building design, and receive feedback from community members.
  - (ii) The purpose of the subsequent community meeting(s) shall be to present preliminary project designs, answer questions from neighboring residents and other interested members of the public, and receive feedback on the design. The date(s), time(s), location(s), attendance, materials presented, and comments received at such

meeting(s) shall be documented and provided to CDD.

- (d) Following one or more such community meeting(s), the developer shall prepare the following materials for review by the Planning Board. CDD shall review to certify that the submitted written and graphic materials provide the required information in sufficient detail. All drawings shall be drawn to scale, shall include a graphic scale and north arrow for orientation, and shall provide labeled distances and dimensions for significant building and site features.
  - (i) A context map indicating the location of the project and surrounding land uses, including transportation facilities.
  - (ii) A context analysis, discussed with CDD staff, including existing front yard setbacks, architectural character, and unique features that inform and influence the design of the AHO Project.
  - (iii) An existing conditions site plan depicting the boundaries of the lot, the locations of buildings, open space features, parking areas, trees, and other major site features on the lot and abutting lots, and the conditions of abutting streets.
  - (iv) A proposed conditions site plan depicting the same information above as modified to depict the proposed conditions, including new buildings (identifying building entrances and uses on the ground floor and possible building roof deck) and major anticipated changes in site features.
  - (v) A design statement on how the proposed project attempts to reinforce existing street/context qualities and mitigates the planned project's greater massing, height, density, &c.
  - (vi) Floor plans of all proposed new buildings and existing buildings to remain on the lot.
  - (vii) Elevations and cross-section drawings of all proposed new buildings and existing buildings to remain on the lot, depicting the distances to lot lines and the heights of surrounding buildings, and labeling the proposed materials on each façade elevation.

- (viii) A landscape plan depicting and labeling all hardscape, permeable, and vegetated areas proposed for the site along with other structures or appurtenances on the site.
  - (ix) Plans of parking and bicycle parking facilities, as required by Section 6.50 of this Zoning Ordinance.
  - (x) Materials palettes cataloguing and depicting with photographs the proposed façade and landscape materials.
  - (xi) Existing conditions photographs from various vantage points on the public sidewalk, including photos of the site and of the surrounding urban context.
  - (xii) Proposed conditions perspective renderings from a variety of vantage points on the public sidewalk, including locations adjacent to the site as well as longer views if proposed buildings will be visible from a distance.
  - (xiii) A dimensional form, in a format provided by CDD, along with any supplemental materials, summarizing the general characteristics of the project and demonstrating compliance with applicable zoning requirements.
  - (xiv) A brief project narrative describing the project and the design approach, and indicating how the project has been designed in relation to the citywide urban design objectives set forth in Section 19.30 of the Zoning Ordinance, any design guidelines that have been established for the area, and the “Design Guidelines for Affordable Housing Overlay.”
  - (xv) Viewshed analysis and shadow studies that show the impact on neighboring properties with existing Solar Energy Systems.
  - (xvi) An initial development budget that shows anticipated funding sources and uses including developer fee and overhead.
- (e) Within 65 days of receipt of a complete set of materials by CDD, the Planning Board shall schedule a design consultation as a general business matter at a public meeting and shall give notification to abutters, owners of land directly opposite on any public or private street or

way, and abutters to the abutters within three hundred feet of the property line of the lot on which the AHO Project is proposed and to any individual or organization who each year files with CDD a written request for such notification, or to any other individual or organization CDD may wish to notify. The materials shall be made available to the public in advance, and the Planning Board may receive written comments prior to the meeting from City staff, abutters, and members of the public.

- (f) At the scheduled design consultation, the Planning Board shall hear a presentation of the proposal from the developer and oral comments from the public. The Board may ask questions or seek additional information from the developer or from City staff.
- (g) The Planning Board shall evaluate the proposal for general compliance with the requirements of this Section, for consistency with City development guidelines prepared for the proposal area and the “Design Guidelines for Affordable Housing Overlay,” for appropriateness in terms of other planned or programmed public or private development activities in the vicinity, and for consistency with the Citywide Urban Design Objectives set forth in Section 19.30. The Board may also suggest specific project adjustments and alterations to further the purposes of this Ordinance. The Board shall communicate its findings in a written report provided to the developer and to CDD within 20 days of the design consultation.
- (h) The developer may then make revisions to the design, in consultation with CDD staff, and shall submit a revised set of documents along with a narrative summary of the Planning Board’s comments and changes made in response to those comments.
- (i) The Planning Board shall review and discuss the revised documents at a second design consultation meeting, which shall proceed in accordance with Paragraphs (c) and (d) above. Following the second design consultation, the Planning Board may submit a revised report and either the revised report or if there are no revisions the initial report shall become the final report (the “Final Report”). Any additional design consultations to review further revisions may occur only at the discretion and on the request of the developer or the Cambridge Affordable Housing Trust.

- (j) The Final Report from the Planning Board shall be provided to the Superintendent of Buildings to certify compliance with the procedures set forth herein.

11.207.9 Implementation of Affordable Housing Overlay

- (a) The City Manager shall have the authority to promulgate regulations for the implementation of the provisions of this Section 11.207. There shall be a sixty-day review period, including a public meeting, to receive public comments on draft regulations before final promulgation.
- (b) The Community Development Department may develop standards, design guidelines, and procedures appropriate to and consistent with the provisions of this Sections 11.207 and the above regulations.

11.207.10 Enforcement of Affordable Housing Overlay

The Community Development Department shall certify in writing to the Superintendent of Buildings that all applicable provisions of this Section have been met before issuance of any building permit for any AHO Project, and shall further certify in writing to the Superintendent of Buildings that all documents have been filed and all actions taken necessary to fulfill the requirements of this Section before the issuance of any certificate of occupancy for any such project.

11.207.11 Review of Affordable Housing Overlay

- (a) Annual Report. CDD shall provide an annual status report to the City Council, beginning eighteen (18) months after ordination and continuing every year thereafter. The report shall contain the following information:
  - (i) List of sites considered for affordable housing development under the Affordable Housing Overlay, to the extent known by CDD, including site location, actions taken to initiate an AHO Project, and site status;
  - (ii) Description of each AHO Project underway or completed, including site location, number of units, unit types (number of bedrooms), tenure, and project status; and
  - (iii) Number of residents served by AHO Projects.
- (b) Five-Year Progress Review. Five (5) years after ordination, CDD shall provide to the City Council, Planning Board and

the Affordable Housing Trust, for its review, a report that assesses the effectiveness of the Affordable Housing Overlay in increasing the number of affordable housing units in the city, distributing affordable housing across City neighborhoods, and serving the housing needs of residents. The report shall also assess the effectiveness of the Advisory Design Consultation Procedure in gathering meaningful input from community members and the Planning Board and shaping AHO Projects to be consistent with the stated Design Objectives. The report shall evaluate the success of the Affordable Housing Overlay in balancing the goal of increasing affordable housing with other City planning considerations such as urban form, neighborhood character, environment, and mobility. The report shall discuss citywide outcomes as well as site-specific outcomes.

Passed to a second reading as amended at the City Council meeting held on September 14, 2020 and on or after October 5, 2020 the question comes on passage to be ordained.

Attest:- Anthony I. Wilson  
City Clerk

**Assembly Bill No. 1763**

CHAPTER 666

An act to amend Section 65915 of the Government Code, relating to housing.

[Approved by Governor October 9, 2019. Filed with Secretary  
of State October 9, 2019.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1763, Chiu. Planning and zoning: density bonuses: affordable housing.

Existing law, known as the Density Bonus Law, requires a city or county to provide a developer that proposes a housing development within the jurisdictional boundaries of that city or county with a density bonus and other incentives or concessions for the production of lower income housing units, or for the donation of land within the development, if the developer agrees to construct a specified percentage of units for very low income, low-income, or moderate-income households or qualifying residents and meets other requirements. Existing law provides for the calculation of the amount of density bonus for each type of housing development that qualifies under these provisions.

This bill would additionally require a density bonus to be provided to a developer who agrees to construct a housing development in which 100% of the total units, exclusive of managers' units, are for lower income households, as defined. However, the bill would provide that a housing development that qualifies for a density bonus under its provisions may include up to 20% of the total units for moderate-income households, as defined. The bill would also require that a housing development that meets these criteria receive 4 incentives or concessions under the Density Bonus Law and, if the development is located within ½ of a major transit stop, a height increase of up to 3 additional stories or 33 feet. The bill would generally require that the housing development receive a density bonus of 80%, but would exempt the housing development from any maximum controls on density if it is located within ½ mile of a major transit stop. The bill would prohibit a housing development that receives a waiver from any maximum controls on density under these provisions from receiving a waiver or reduction of development standards pursuant to existing law, other than as expressly provided in the bill. The bill would also make various nonsubstantive changes to the Density Bonus Law.

Existing law requires that an applicant for a density bonus agree to, and that the city and county ensure, the continued affordability of all very low and low-income rental units that qualified the applicant for a density bonus for at least 55 years, as provided. Existing law requires that the rent for

lower income density bonus units be set at an affordable rent, as defined in specified law.

This bill, for units, including both base density and density bonus units, in a housing development that qualifies for a density bonus under its provisions as described above, would instead require that the rent for at least 20% of the units in that development be set at an affordable rent, defined as described above, and that the rent for the remaining units be set at an amount consistent with the maximum rent levels for a housing development that receives an allocation of state or federal low-income housing tax credits from the California Tax Credit Allocation Committee.

Existing law, upon the request of the developer, prohibits a city, county, or city and county from requiring a vehicular parking ratio for a development meeting the eligibility requirements under the Density Bonus Law that exceeds specified ratios. For a development that consists solely of rental units, exclusive of a manager's unit or units, with an affordable housing cost to lower income families, as provided in specified law, and that is a special needs housing development, as defined, existing law limits that vehicular parking ratio to 0.3 spaces per unit.

This bill would instead, upon the request of the developer, prohibit a city, county, or city and county from imposing any minimum vehicular parking requirement for a development that consists solely of rental units, exclusive of a manager's unit or units, with an affordable housing cost to lower income families and is either a special needs housing development or a supportive housing development, as those terms are defined.

By adding to the duties of local planning officials with respect to the award of density bonuses, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 65915 of the Government Code, as amended by Chapter 937 of the Statutes of 2018, is amended to read:

65915. (a) (1) When an applicant seeks a density bonus for a housing development within, or for the donation of land for housing within, the jurisdiction of a city, county, or city and county, that local government shall comply with this section. A city, county, or city and county shall adopt an ordinance that specifies how compliance with this section will be implemented. Failure to adopt an ordinance shall not relieve a city, county, or city and county from complying with this section.

(2) A local government shall not condition the submission, review, or approval of an application pursuant to this chapter on the preparation of an

additional report or study that is not otherwise required by state law, including this section. This subdivision does not prohibit a local government from requiring an applicant to provide reasonable documentation to establish eligibility for a requested density bonus, incentives or concessions, as described in subdivision (d), waivers or reductions of development standards, as described in subdivision (e), and parking ratios, as described in subdivision (p).

(3) In order to provide for the expeditious processing of a density bonus application, the local government shall do all of the following:

(A) Adopt procedures and timelines for processing a density bonus application.

(B) Provide a list of all documents and information required to be submitted with the density bonus application in order for the density bonus application to be deemed complete. This list shall be consistent with this chapter.

(C) Notify the applicant for a density bonus whether the application is complete in a manner consistent with the timelines specified in Section 65943.

(D) (i) If the local government notifies the applicant that the application is deemed complete pursuant to subparagraph (C), provide the applicant with a determination as to the following matters:

(I) The amount of density bonus, calculated pursuant to subdivision (f), for which the applicant is eligible.

(II) If the applicant requests a parking ratio pursuant to subdivision (p), the parking ratio for which the applicant is eligible.

(III) If the applicant requests incentives or concessions pursuant to subdivision (d) or waivers or reductions of development standards pursuant to subdivision (e), whether the applicant has provided adequate information for the local government to make a determination as to those incentives, concessions, or waivers or reductions of development standards.

(ii) Any determination required by this subparagraph shall be based on the development project at the time the application is deemed complete. The local government shall adjust the amount of density bonus and parking ratios awarded pursuant to this section based on any changes to the project during the course of development.

(b) (1) A city, county, or city and county shall grant one density bonus, the amount of which shall be as specified in subdivision (f), and, if requested by the applicant and consistent with the applicable requirements of this section, incentives or concessions, as described in subdivision (d), waivers or reductions of development standards, as described in subdivision (e), and parking ratios, as described in subdivision (p), when an applicant for a housing development seeks and agrees to construct a housing development, excluding any units permitted by the density bonus awarded pursuant to this section, that will contain at least any one of the following:

(A) Ten percent of the total units of a housing development for lower income households, as defined in Section 50079.5 of the Health and Safety Code.

(B) Five percent of the total units of a housing development for very low income households, as defined in Section 50105 of the Health and Safety Code.

(C) A senior citizen housing development, as defined in Sections 51.3 and 51.12 of the Civil Code, or a mobilehome park that limits residency based on age requirements for housing for older persons pursuant to Section 798.76 or 799.5 of the Civil Code.

(D) Ten percent of the total dwelling units in a common interest development, as defined in Section 4100 of the Civil Code, for persons and families of moderate income, as defined in Section 50093 of the Health and Safety Code, provided that all units in the development are offered to the public for purchase.

(E) Ten percent of the total units of a housing development for transitional foster youth, as defined in Section 66025.9 of the Education Code, disabled veterans, as defined in Section 18541, or homeless persons, as defined in the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 11301 et seq.). The units described in this subparagraph shall be subject to a recorded affordability restriction of 55 years and shall be provided at the same affordability level as very low income units.

(F) (i) Twenty percent of the total units for lower income students in a student housing development that meets the following requirements:

(I) All units in the student housing development will be used exclusively for undergraduate, graduate, or professional students enrolled full time at an institution of higher education accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges or the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges. In order to be eligible under this subclause, the developer shall, as a condition of receiving a certificate of occupancy, provide evidence to the city, county, or city and county that the developer has entered into an operating agreement or master lease with one or more institutions of higher education for the institution or institutions to occupy all units of the student housing development with students from that institution or institutions. An operating agreement or master lease entered into pursuant to this subclause is not violated or breached if, in any subsequent year, there are not sufficient students enrolled in an institution of higher education to fill all units in the student housing development.

(II) The applicable 20-percent units will be used for lower income students. For purposes of this clause, “lower income students” means students who have a household income and asset level that does not exceed the level for Cal Grant A or Cal Grant B award recipients as set forth in paragraph (1) of subdivision (k) of Section 69432.7 of the Education Code. The eligibility of a student under this clause shall be verified by an affidavit, award letter, or letter of eligibility provided by the institution of higher education that the student is enrolled in, as described in subclause (I), or by the California Student Aid Commission that the student receives or is eligible for financial aid, including an institutional grant or fee waiver, from the college or university, the California Student Aid Commission, or the federal government shall be sufficient to satisfy this subclause.

(III) The rent provided in the applicable units of the development for lower income students shall be calculated at 30 percent of 65 percent of the area median income for a single-room occupancy unit type.

(IV) The development will provide priority for the applicable affordable units for lower income students experiencing homelessness. A homeless service provider, as defined in paragraph (3) of subdivision (d) of Section 103577 of the Health and Safety Code, or institution of higher education that has knowledge of a person's homeless status may verify a person's status as homeless for purposes of this subclause.

(ii) For purposes of calculating a density bonus granted pursuant to this subparagraph, the term "unit" as used in this section means one rental bed and its pro rata share of associated common area facilities. The units described in this subparagraph shall be subject to a recorded affordability restriction of 55 years.

(G) One hundred percent of the total units, exclusive of a manager's unit or units, are for lower income households, as defined by Section 50079.5 of the Health and Safety Code, except that up to 20 percent of the total units in the development may be for moderate-income households, as defined in Section 50053 of the Health and Safety Code.

(2) For purposes of calculating the amount of the density bonus pursuant to subdivision (f), an applicant who requests a density bonus pursuant to this subdivision shall elect whether the bonus shall be awarded on the basis of subparagraph (A), (B), (C), (D), (E), (F), or (G) of paragraph (1).

(3) For the purposes of this section, "total units," "total dwelling units," or "total rental beds" does not include units added by a density bonus awarded pursuant to this section or any local law granting a greater density bonus.

(c) (1) (A) An applicant shall agree to, and the city, county, or city and county shall ensure, the continued affordability of all very low and low-income rental units that qualified the applicant for the award of the density bonus for 55 years or a longer period of time if required by the construction or mortgage financing assistance program, mortgage insurance program, or rental subsidy program.

(B) (i) Except as otherwise provided in clause (ii), rents for the lower income density bonus units shall be set at an affordable rent, as defined in Section 50053 of the Health and Safety Code.

(ii) For housing developments meeting the criteria of subparagraph (G) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (b), rents for all units in the development, including both base density and density bonus units, shall be as follows:

(I) The rent for at least 20 percent of the units in the development shall be set at an affordable rent, as defined in Section 50053 of the Health and Safety Code.

(II) The rent for the remaining units in the development shall be set at an amount consistent with the maximum rent levels for a housing development that receives an allocation of state or federal low-income housing tax credits from the California Tax Credit Allocation Committee.

(2) An applicant shall agree to, and the city, county, or city and county shall ensure that, the initial occupant of all for-sale units that qualified the applicant for the award of the density bonus are persons and families of very low, low, or moderate income, as required, and that the units are offered at an affordable housing cost, as that cost is defined in Section 50052.5 of the Health and Safety Code. The local government shall enforce an equity sharing agreement, unless it is in conflict with the requirements of another public funding source or law. The following apply to the equity sharing agreement:

(A) Upon resale, the seller of the unit shall retain the value of any improvements, the downpayment, and the seller's proportionate share of appreciation. The local government shall recapture any initial subsidy, as defined in subparagraph (B), and its proportionate share of appreciation, as defined in subparagraph (C), which amount shall be used within five years for any of the purposes described in subdivision (e) of Section 33334.2 of the Health and Safety Code that promote home ownership.

(B) For purposes of this subdivision, the local government's initial subsidy shall be equal to the fair market value of the home at the time of initial sale minus the initial sale price to the moderate-income household, plus the amount of any downpayment assistance or mortgage assistance. If upon resale the market value is lower than the initial market value, then the value at the time of the resale shall be used as the initial market value.

(C) For purposes of this subdivision, the local government's proportionate share of appreciation shall be equal to the ratio of the local government's initial subsidy to the fair market value of the home at the time of initial sale.

(3) (A) An applicant shall be ineligible for a density bonus or any other incentives or concessions under this section if the housing development is proposed on any property that includes a parcel or parcels on which rental dwelling units are or, if the dwelling units have been vacated or demolished in the five-year period preceding the application, have been subject to a recorded covenant, ordinance, or law that restricts rents to levels affordable to persons and families of lower or very low income; subject to any other form of rent or price control through a public entity's valid exercise of its police power; or occupied by lower or very low income households, unless the proposed housing development replaces those units, and either of the following applies:

(i) The proposed housing development, inclusive of the units replaced pursuant to this paragraph, contains affordable units at the percentages set forth in subdivision (b).

(ii) Each unit in the development, exclusive of a manager's unit or units, is affordable to, and occupied by, either a lower or very low income household.

(B) For the purposes of this paragraph, "replace" shall mean either of the following:

(i) If any dwelling units described in subparagraph (A) are occupied on the date of application, the proposed housing development shall provide at least the same number of units of equivalent size to be made available at

affordable rent or affordable housing cost to, and occupied by, persons and families in the same or lower income category as those households in occupancy. If the income category of the household in occupancy is not known, it shall be rebuttably presumed that lower income renter households occupied these units in the same proportion of lower income renter households to all renter households within the jurisdiction, as determined by the most recently available data from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy database. For unoccupied dwelling units described in subparagraph (A) in a development with occupied units, the proposed housing development shall provide units of equivalent size to be made available at affordable rent or affordable housing cost to, and occupied by, persons and families in the same or lower income category as the last household in occupancy. If the income category of the last household in occupancy is not known, it shall be rebuttably presumed that lower income renter households occupied these units in the same proportion of lower income renter households to all renter households within the jurisdiction, as determined by the most recently available data from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy database. All replacement calculations resulting in fractional units shall be rounded up to the next whole number. If the replacement units will be rental dwelling units, these units shall be subject to a recorded affordability restriction for at least 55 years. If the proposed development is for-sale units, the units replaced shall be subject to paragraph (2).

(ii) If all dwelling units described in subparagraph (A) have been vacated or demolished within the five-year period preceding the application, the proposed housing development shall provide at least the same number of units of equivalent size as existed at the highpoint of those units in the five-year period preceding the application to be made available at affordable rent or affordable housing cost to, and occupied by, persons and families in the same or lower income category as those persons and families in occupancy at that time, if known. If the incomes of the persons and families in occupancy at the highpoint is not known, it shall be rebuttably presumed that low-income and very low income renter households occupied these units in the same proportion of low-income and very low income renter households to all renter households within the jurisdiction, as determined by the most recently available data from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy database. All replacement calculations resulting in fractional units shall be rounded up to the next whole number. If the replacement units will be rental dwelling units, these units shall be subject to a recorded affordability restriction for at least 55 years. If the proposed development is for-sale units, the units replaced shall be subject to paragraph (2).

(C) Notwithstanding subparagraph (B), for any dwelling unit described in subparagraph (A) that is or was, within the five-year period preceding the application, subject to a form of rent or price control through a local government's valid exercise of its police power and that is or was occupied

by persons or families above lower income, the city, county, or city and county may do either of the following:

(i) Require that the replacement units be made available at affordable rent or affordable housing cost to, and occupied by, low-income persons or families. If the replacement units will be rental dwelling units, these units shall be subject to a recorded affordability restriction for at least 55 years. If the proposed development is for-sale units, the units replaced shall be subject to paragraph (2).

(ii) Require that the units be replaced in compliance with the jurisdiction's rent or price control ordinance, provided that each unit described in subparagraph (A) is replaced. Unless otherwise required by the jurisdiction's rent or price control ordinance, these units shall not be subject to a recorded affordability restriction.

(D) For purposes of this paragraph, "equivalent size" means that the replacement units contain at least the same total number of bedrooms as the units being replaced.

(E) Subparagraph (A) does not apply to an applicant seeking a density bonus for a proposed housing development if the applicant's application was submitted to, or processed by, a city, county, or city and county before January 1, 2015.

(d) (1) An applicant for a density bonus pursuant to subdivision (b) may submit to a city, county, or city and county a proposal for the specific incentives or concessions that the applicant requests pursuant to this section, and may request a meeting with the city, county, or city and county. The city, county, or city and county shall grant the concession or incentive requested by the applicant unless the city, county, or city and county makes a written finding, based upon substantial evidence, of any of the following:

(A) The concession or incentive does not result in identifiable and actual cost reductions, consistent with subdivision (k), to provide for affordable housing costs, as defined in Section 50052.5 of the Health and Safety Code, or for rents for the targeted units to be set as specified in subdivision (c).

(B) The concession or incentive would have a specific, adverse impact, as defined in paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Section 65589.5, upon public health and safety or the physical environment or on any real property that is listed in the California Register of Historical Resources and for which there is no feasible method to satisfactorily mitigate or avoid the specific, adverse impact without rendering the development unaffordable to low-income and moderate-income households.

(C) The concession or incentive would be contrary to state or federal law.

(2) The applicant shall receive the following number of incentives or concessions:

(A) One incentive or concession for projects that include at least 10 percent of the total units for lower income households, at least 5 percent for very low income households, or at least 10 percent for persons and families of moderate income in a common interest development.

(B) Two incentives or concessions for projects that include at least 20 percent of the total units for lower income households, at least 10 percent for very low income households, or at least 20 percent for persons and families of moderate income in a common interest development.

(C) Three incentives or concessions for projects that include at least 30 percent of the total units for lower income households, at least 15 percent for very low income households, or at least 30 percent for persons and families of moderate income in a common interest development.

(D) Four incentives or concessions for projects meeting the criteria of subparagraph (G) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (b). If the project is located within one-half mile of a major transit stop, as defined in subdivision (b) of Section 21155 of the Public Resources Code, the applicant shall also receive a height increase of up to three additional stories, or 33 feet.

(3) The applicant may initiate judicial proceedings if the city, county, or city and county refuses to grant a requested density bonus, incentive, or concession. If a court finds that the refusal to grant a requested density bonus, incentive, or concession is in violation of this section, the court shall award the plaintiff reasonable attorney's fees and costs of suit. Nothing in this subdivision shall be interpreted to require a local government to grant an incentive or concession that has a specific, adverse impact, as defined in paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Section 65589.5, upon health, safety, or the physical environment, and for which there is no feasible method to satisfactorily mitigate or avoid the specific adverse impact. Nothing in this subdivision shall be interpreted to require a local government to grant an incentive or concession that would have an adverse impact on any real property that is listed in the California Register of Historical Resources. The city, county, or city and county shall establish procedures for carrying out this section that shall include legislative body approval of the means of compliance with this section.

(4) The city, county, or city and county shall bear the burden of proof for the denial of a requested concession or incentive.

(e) (1) In no case may a city, county, or city and county apply any development standard that will have the effect of physically precluding the construction of a development meeting the criteria of subdivision (b) at the densities or with the concessions or incentives permitted by this section. Subject to paragraph (3), an applicant may submit to a city, county, or city and county a proposal for the waiver or reduction of development standards that will have the effect of physically precluding the construction of a development meeting the criteria of subdivision (b) at the densities or with the concessions or incentives permitted under this section, and may request a meeting with the city, county, or city and county. If a court finds that the refusal to grant a waiver or reduction of development standards is in violation of this section, the court shall award the plaintiff reasonable attorney's fees and costs of suit. Nothing in this subdivision shall be interpreted to require a local government to waive or reduce development standards if the waiver or reduction would have a specific, adverse impact, as defined in paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Section 65589.5, upon health, safety, or the physical

environment, and for which there is no feasible method to satisfactorily mitigate or avoid the specific adverse impact. Nothing in this subdivision shall be interpreted to require a local government to waive or reduce development standards that would have an adverse impact on any real property that is listed in the California Register of Historical Resources, or to grant any waiver or reduction that would be contrary to state or federal law.

(2) A proposal for the waiver or reduction of development standards pursuant to this subdivision shall neither reduce nor increase the number of incentives or concessions to which the applicant is entitled pursuant to subdivision (d).

(3) A housing development that receives a waiver from any maximum controls on density pursuant to clause (ii) of subparagraph (D) of paragraph (3) of subdivision (f) shall not be eligible for, and shall not receive, a waiver or reduction of development standards pursuant to this subdivision, other than as expressly provided in subparagraph (D) of paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) and clause (ii) of subparagraph (D) of paragraph (3) of subdivision (f).

(f) For the purposes of this chapter, “density bonus” means a density increase over the otherwise maximum allowable gross residential density as of the date of application by the applicant to the city, county, or city and county, or, if elected by the applicant, a lesser percentage of density increase, including, but not limited to, no increase in density. The amount of density increase to which the applicant is entitled shall vary according to the amount by which the percentage of affordable housing units exceeds the percentage established in subdivision (b).

(1) For housing developments meeting the criteria of subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (b), the density bonus shall be calculated as follows:

Percentage Low-Income Units	Percentage Density Bonus
10	20
11	21.5
12	23
13	24.5
14	26
15	27.5
17	30.5
18	32
19	33.5
20	35

(2) For housing developments meeting the criteria of subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (b), the density bonus shall be calculated as follows:

Percentage Very Low Income Units	Percentage Density Bonus
5	20
6	22.5
7	25
8	27.5
9	30
10	32.5
11	35

(3) (A) For housing developments meeting the criteria of subparagraph (C) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (b), the density bonus shall be 20 percent of the number of senior housing units.

(B) For housing developments meeting the criteria of subparagraph (E) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (b), the density bonus shall be 20 percent of the number of the type of units giving rise to a density bonus under that subparagraph.

(C) For housing developments meeting the criteria of subparagraph (F) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (b), the density bonus shall be 35 percent of the student housing units.

(D) For housing developments meeting the criteria of subparagraph (G) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (b), the following shall apply:

(i) Except as otherwise provided in clause (ii), the density bonus shall be 80 percent of the number of units for lower income households.

(ii) If the housing development is located within one-half mile of a major transit stop, as defined in subdivision (b) of Section 21155 of the Public Resources Code, the city, county, or city and county shall not impose any maximum controls on density.

(4) For housing developments meeting the criteria of subparagraph (D) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (b), the density bonus shall be calculated as follows:

Percentage Moderate-Income Units	Percentage Density Bonus
10	5
11	6
12	7
13	8
14	9
15	10
16	11
17	12
18	13
19	14
20	15
21	16
22	17
23	18
24	19

25	20
26	21
27	22
28	23
29	24
30	25
31	26
32	27
33	28
34	29
35	30
36	31
37	32
38	33
39	34
40	35

(5) All density calculations resulting in fractional units shall be rounded up to the next whole number. The granting of a density bonus shall not require, or be interpreted, in and of itself, to require a general plan amendment, local coastal plan amendment, zoning change, or other discretionary approval.

(g) (1) When an applicant for a tentative subdivision map, parcel map, or other residential development approval donates land to a city, county, or city and county in accordance with this subdivision, the applicant shall be entitled to a 15-percent increase above the otherwise maximum allowable residential density for the entire development, as follows:

Percentage Very Low Income	Percentage Density Bonus
10	15
11	16
12	17
13	18
14	19
15	20
16	21
17	22
18	23
19	24
20	25
21	26
22	27
23	28
24	29
25	30
26	31
27	32

28	33
29	34
30	35

(2) This increase shall be in addition to any increase in density mandated by subdivision (b), up to a maximum combined mandated density increase of 35 percent if an applicant seeks an increase pursuant to both this subdivision and subdivision (b). All density calculations resulting in fractional units shall be rounded up to the next whole number. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to enlarge or diminish the authority of a city, county, or city and county to require a developer to donate land as a condition of development. An applicant shall be eligible for the increased density bonus described in this subdivision if all of the following conditions are met:

(A) The applicant donates and transfers the land no later than the date of approval of the final subdivision map, parcel map, or residential development application.

(B) The developable acreage and zoning classification of the land being transferred are sufficient to permit construction of units affordable to very low income households in an amount not less than 10 percent of the number of residential units of the proposed development.

(C) The transferred land is at least one acre in size or of sufficient size to permit development of at least 40 units, has the appropriate general plan designation, is appropriately zoned with appropriate development standards for development at the density described in paragraph (3) of subdivision (c) of Section 65583.2, and is or will be served by adequate public facilities and infrastructure.

(D) The transferred land shall have all of the permits and approvals, other than building permits, necessary for the development of the very low income housing units on the transferred land, not later than the date of approval of the final subdivision map, parcel map, or residential development application, except that the local government may subject the proposed development to subsequent design review to the extent authorized by subdivision (i) of Section 65583.2 if the design is not reviewed by the local government before the time of transfer.

(E) The transferred land and the affordable units shall be subject to a deed restriction ensuring continued affordability of the units consistent with paragraphs (1) and (2) of subdivision (c), which shall be recorded on the property at the time of the transfer.

(F) The land is transferred to the local agency or to a housing developer approved by the local agency. The local agency may require the applicant to identify and transfer the land to the developer.

(G) The transferred land shall be within the boundary of the proposed development or, if the local agency agrees, within one-quarter mile of the boundary of the proposed development.

(H) A proposed source of funding for the very low income units shall be identified not later than the date of approval of the final subdivision map, parcel map, or residential development application.

(h) (1) When an applicant proposes to construct a housing development that conforms to the requirements of subdivision (b) and includes a childcare facility that will be located on the premises of, as part of, or adjacent to, the project, the city, county, or city and county shall grant either of the following:

(A) An additional density bonus that is an amount of square feet of residential space that is equal to or greater than the amount of square feet in the childcare facility.

(B) An additional concession or incentive that contributes significantly to the economic feasibility of the construction of the childcare facility.

(2) The city, county, or city and county shall require, as a condition of approving the housing development, that the following occur:

(A) The childcare facility shall remain in operation for a period of time that is as long as or longer than the period of time during which the density bonus units are required to remain affordable pursuant to subdivision (c).

(B) Of the children who attend the childcare facility, the children of very low income households, lower income households, or families of moderate income shall equal a percentage that is equal to or greater than the percentage of dwelling units that are required for very low income households, lower income households, or families of moderate income pursuant to subdivision (b).

(3) Notwithstanding any requirement of this subdivision, a city, county, or city and county shall not be required to provide a density bonus or concession for a childcare facility if it finds, based upon substantial evidence, that the community has adequate childcare facilities.

(4) “Childcare facility,” as used in this section, means a child daycare facility other than a family daycare home, including, but not limited to, infant centers, preschools, extended daycare facilities, and schoolage childcare centers.

(i) “Housing development,” as used in this section, means a development project for five or more residential units, including mixed-use developments. For the purposes of this section, “housing development” also includes a subdivision or common interest development, as defined in Section 4100 of the Civil Code, approved by a city, county, or city and county and consists of residential units or unimproved residential lots and either a project to substantially rehabilitate and convert an existing commercial building to residential use or the substantial rehabilitation of an existing multifamily dwelling, as defined in subdivision (d) of Section 65863.4, where the result of the rehabilitation would be a net increase in available residential units. For the purpose of calculating a density bonus, the residential units shall be on contiguous sites that are the subject of one development application, but do not have to be based upon individual subdivision maps or parcels. The density bonus shall be permitted in geographic areas of the housing development other than the areas where the units for the lower income households are located.

(j) (1) The granting of a concession or incentive shall not require or be interpreted, in and of itself, to require a general plan amendment, local coastal plan amendment, zoning change, study, or other discretionary approval. For purposes of this subdivision, “study” does not include reasonable documentation to establish eligibility for the concession or incentive or to demonstrate that the incentive or concession meets the definition set forth in subdivision (k). This provision is declaratory of existing law.

(2) Except as provided in subdivisions (d) and (e), the granting of a density bonus shall not require or be interpreted to require the waiver of a local ordinance or provisions of a local ordinance unrelated to development standards.

(k) For the purposes of this chapter, concession or incentive means any of the following:

(1) A reduction in site development standards or a modification of zoning code requirements or architectural design requirements that exceed the minimum building standards approved by the California Building Standards Commission as provided in Part 2.5 (commencing with Section 18901) of Division 13 of the Health and Safety Code, including, but not limited to, a reduction in setback and square footage requirements and in the ratio of vehicular parking spaces that would otherwise be required that results in identifiable and actual cost reductions, to provide for affordable housing costs, as defined in Section 50052.5 of the Health and Safety Code, or for rents for the targeted units to be set as specified in subdivision (c).

(2) Approval of mixed-use zoning in conjunction with the housing project if commercial, office, industrial, or other land uses will reduce the cost of the housing development and if the commercial, office, industrial, or other land uses are compatible with the housing project and the existing or planned development in the area where the proposed housing project will be located.

(3) Other regulatory incentives or concessions proposed by the developer or the city, county, or city and county that result in identifiable and actual cost reductions to provide for affordable housing costs, as defined in Section 50052.5 of the Health and Safety Code, or for rents for the targeted units to be set as specified in subdivision (c).

(l) Subdivision (k) does not limit or require the provision of direct financial incentives for the housing development, including the provision of publicly owned land, by the city, county, or city and county, or the waiver of fees or dedication requirements.

(m) This section does not supersede or in any way alter or lessen the effect or application of the California Coastal Act of 1976 (Division 20 (commencing with Section 30000) of the Public Resources Code). Any density bonus, concessions, incentives, waivers or reductions of development standards, and parking ratios to which the applicant is entitled under this section shall be permitted in a manner that is consistent with this section and Division 20 (commencing with Section 30000) of the Public Resources Code.

(n) If permitted by local ordinance, nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a city, county, or city and county from granting a density bonus greater than what is described in this section for a development that meets the requirements of this section or from granting a proportionately lower density bonus than what is required by this section for developments that do not meet the requirements of this section.

(o) For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) “Development standard” includes a site or construction condition, including, but not limited to, a height limitation, a setback requirement, a floor area ratio, an onsite open-space requirement, or a parking ratio that applies to a residential development pursuant to any ordinance, general plan element, specific plan, charter, or other local condition, law, policy, resolution, or regulation.

(2) “Maximum allowable residential density” means the density allowed under the zoning ordinance and land use element of the general plan, or, if a range of density is permitted, means the maximum allowable density for the specific zoning range and land use element of the general plan applicable to the project. If the density allowed under the zoning ordinance is inconsistent with the density allowed under the land use element of the general plan, the general plan density shall prevail.

(p) (1) Except as provided in paragraphs (2), (3), and (4), upon the request of the developer, a city, county, or city and county shall not require a vehicular parking ratio, inclusive of handicapped and guest parking, of a development meeting the criteria of subdivisions (b) and (c), that exceeds the following ratios:

(A) Zero to one bedroom: one onsite parking space.

(B) Two to three bedrooms: two onsite parking spaces.

(C) Four and more bedrooms: two and one-half parking spaces.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), if a development includes the maximum percentage of low-income or very low income units provided for in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subdivision (f) and is located within one-half mile of a major transit stop, as defined in subdivision (b) of Section 21155 of the Public Resources Code, and there is unobstructed access to the major transit stop from the development, then, upon the request of the developer, a city, county, or city and county shall not impose a vehicular parking ratio, inclusive of handicapped and guest parking, that exceeds 0.5 spaces per bedroom. For purposes of this subdivision, a development shall have unobstructed access to a major transit stop if a resident is able to access the major transit stop without encountering natural or constructed impediments.

(3) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), if a development consists solely of rental units, exclusive of a manager’s unit or units, with an affordable housing cost to lower income families, as provided in Section 50052.5 of the Health and Safety Code, then, upon the request of the developer, a city, county, or city and county shall not impose a vehicular parking ratio, inclusive of handicapped and guest parking, that exceeds the following ratios:

(A) If the development is located within one-half mile of a major transit stop, as defined in subdivision (b) of Section 21155 of the Public Resources Code, and there is unobstructed access to the major transit stop from the development, the ratio shall not exceed 0.5 spaces per unit.

(B) If the development is a for-rent housing development for individuals who are 62 years of age or older that complies with Sections 51.2 and 51.3 of the Civil Code, the ratio shall not exceed 0.5 spaces per unit. The development shall have either paratransit service or unobstructed access, within one-half mile, to fixed bus route service that operates at least eight times per day.

(4) Notwithstanding paragraphs (1) and (8), if a development consists solely of rental units, exclusive of a manager's unit or units, with an affordable housing cost to lower income families, as provided in Section 50052.5 of the Health and Safety Code, and the development is either a special needs housing development, as defined in Section 51312 of the Health and Safety Code, or a supportive housing development, as defined in Section 50675.14 of the Health and Safety Code, then, upon the request of the developer, a city, county, or city and county shall not impose any minimum vehicular parking requirement. A development that is a special needs housing development shall have either paratransit service or unobstructed access, within one-half mile, to fixed bus route service that operates at least eight times per day.

(5) If the total number of parking spaces required for a development is other than a whole number, the number shall be rounded up to the next whole number. For purposes of this subdivision, a development may provide onsite parking through tandem parking or uncovered parking, but not through onstreet parking.

(6) This subdivision shall apply to a development that meets the requirements of subdivisions (b) and (c), but only at the request of the applicant. An applicant may request parking incentives or concessions beyond those provided in this subdivision pursuant to subdivision (d).

(7) This subdivision does not preclude a city, county, or city and county from reducing or eliminating a parking requirement for development projects of any type in any location.

(8) Notwithstanding paragraphs (2) and (3), if a city, county, city and county, or an independent consultant has conducted an areawide or jurisdictionwide parking study in the last seven years, then the city, county, or city and county may impose a higher vehicular parking ratio not to exceed the ratio described in paragraph (1), based upon substantial evidence found in the parking study, that includes, but is not limited to, an analysis of parking availability, differing levels of transit access, walkability access to transit services, the potential for shared parking, the effect of parking requirements on the cost of market-rate and subsidized developments, and the lower rates of car ownership for low-income and very low income individuals, including seniors and special needs individuals. The city, county, or city and county shall pay the costs of any new study. The city, county, or city and county

shall make findings, based on a parking study completed in conformity with this paragraph, supporting the need for the higher parking ratio.

(9) A request pursuant to this subdivision shall neither reduce nor increase the number of incentives or concessions to which the applicant is entitled pursuant to subdivision (d).

(q) Each component of any density calculation, including base density and bonus density, resulting in fractional units shall be separately rounded up to the next whole number. The Legislature finds and declares that this provision is declaratory of existing law.

(r) This chapter shall be interpreted liberally in favor of producing the maximum number of total housing units.

SEC. 2. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because a local agency or school district has the authority to levy service charges, fees, or assessments sufficient to pay for the program or level of service mandated by this act, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code.

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ACTION CALENDAR  
DATE: March 9, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Terry Taplin, Councilmember Bartlett, Councilmember Robinson (co-sponsors)

Subject: Affordable Housing Overlay

RECOMMENDATION

Refer to the City Manager and Planning Commission revisions to the zoning code and General Plan, permitting increased height and density for 100% affordable housing developments, including but not limited to:

1. Exceeding standards set forth in California Government Code Section 65915 with additional height and density incentives for qualifying 100% affordable projects deed-restricted for low- and moderate-income households, including:
  - a. An additional 33' local density bonus for qualifying projects with low- and moderate-income units deed-restricted for households earning up to 100% of Area Median Income, aiming to maximize total unit count restricted for Very Low and Extremely Low Income households;
  - b. Expanding waiver of density limits, including units per acre and floor area ratio, for transit-adjacent projects to include all parcels within one half mile of a commuter rail station, and within 1/4 mile of an AC Transit bus route with 7-day service in Fiscal Year 2019;
  - c. Reduced density limits for projects outside of transit proximity threshold with additional Transportation Demand Management (TDM) policies, including bike parking, paratransit and shared micro-mobility systems;
  - d. Ministerial approval of all qualifying projects meeting objective design criteria and union labor requirements;
  - e. Exempting parcels with Designated Historic Landmarks and maintaining demolition restrictions consistent with state law.
2. Ministerial approval for a baseline of 76' for 100% affordable residential dwelling units in all commercial zones, and provisions for ground-floor retail and/or live-work space;
3. In R-1, R-1A and R-2 zones, provide ministerial approval for a 10' local density bonus for 100% affordable housing, with waived density requirements for dwelling units per acre and lot coverage. On parcels within high-risk wildfire zones as determined by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire), ministerial approval for 100% affordable projects should be

contingent on fire-blocking design and defensible space standards certified by the Planning Department.

Council directs the Planning Commission and staff to codify an Affordable Housing Overlay for 100% affordable housing as specified above in 2021-2022 work plans in anticipation of 2023-2031 RHNA targets. Staff and the commission should build upon the framework established in Government Code Section 65915 as well as municipal implementations of Affordable Housing Overlays in other states, such as Cambridge and Somerville, MA.

## BACKGROUND

Berkeley has made insufficient progress on meeting its state-mandated Regional Housing Need Allocation (RHNA) goals for low- and moderate-income housing in the 2014-2022 RHNA cycle. As recently as the city's 2020<sup>1</sup> Housing Pipeline Report, the city had only fulfilled 23% of its moderate-income RHNA goals, 21% of its RHNA goals for Very-Low Income households, and a mere 4% for Low-Income households. Berkeley's next RHNA cycle is estimated to mandate roughly 3 times as many units<sup>2</sup> as the previous cycle's total of 2,959 units across all income tiers. SB-330 by Sen. Nancy Skinner (D-Berkeley), passed in 2019, requires municipal general plans to zone adequately to meet residential capacity mandated by RHNA goals and state-certified Housing Elements.

Affordable housing will continue to be a high priority, but nonprofit affordable housing developers may face stiff competition for scarce land with market-rate developers, particularly during an anticipated period of economic recovery. In 2019, Governor Newsom signed AB-1763 by Assembly member David Chiu (D-SF), amending California Government Code 65915 to confer greater fiscal advantages for 100% affordable housing developments through state density bonus law. The bill prohibits minimum parking requirements (which Berkeley has recently removed) and grants a 3-story increase in allowable heights, with a waiver on density restrictions for projects located within a half-mile of major transit stops.

When the 42-unit affordable housing project at Harpers Crossing opened in Berkeley, at a total project cost of \$18 million, over 700 seniors applied. Without substantial funding and square footage for affordable housing, the City of Berkeley will be increasingly challenged to create enough subsidized housing to meet increasing demand. Increased allowable density and streamlined approvals for affordable housing will also be key to meeting Berkeley's RHNA goals for low- and moderate-income housing.

## RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City\\_Council/2020/07\\_Jul/Documents/2020-07-28\\_Item\\_45\\_Annual\\_Housing\\_Pipeline\\_Report.aspx?sa=U&ved=2ahUKewjc3tDIIntHuAhXWu54KHdyGAtAQFjABegQICRAC&usg=AOvVaw0eXQ4oP5AAL14h0lphPdr](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City_Council/2020/07_Jul/Documents/2020-07-28_Item_45_Annual_Housing_Pipeline_Report.aspx?sa=U&ved=2ahUKewjc3tDIIntHuAhXWu54KHdyGAtAQFjABegQICRAC&usg=AOvVaw0eXQ4oP5AAL14h0lphPdr)

<sup>2</sup> [https://abag.ca.gov/sites/default/files/draft\\_rhna\\_allocation\\_presentation\\_to\\_exec\\_bd\\_jan\\_21.pdf](https://abag.ca.gov/sites/default/files/draft_rhna_allocation_presentation_to_exec_bd_jan_21.pdf)

There is precedent in the state of California for meeting low-income RHNA goals with an Affordable Housing Overlay. In eastern Contra Costa County, the newly-incorporated city of Oakley established an Affordable Housing Overlay in 2005, which has yielded 7 affordable housing developments totaling 509 housing units combined as of 2019.<sup>3</sup> Despite local opposition to low-income housing, the AHO enabled the city to obtain state certification for its first 2001-2007 Housing Element, procure funding from the county, and meet its low-income RHNA goals by rezoning 16.3 acres for multifamily housing.

According to the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), 28 jurisdictions in the 9-county Bay Area have some form of Housing Overlay Zone policy.<sup>4</sup>

According to a 2010 fact sheet by Public Advocates and East Bay Housing Organizations (EBHO), “the more valuable the developer incentives included in a Housing Overlay Zone, the more effective the HOZ will be in encouraging production of homes that people can afford. Desirable incentives both motivate developers to take advantage of the HOZ, and reduce development costs to allow construction of more affordable homes.”<sup>5</sup>

The City Council of Cambridge, Massachusetts passed an Affordable Housing Overlay amendment to its zoning code in October of 2020.<sup>6</sup> The City Council of Somerville, MA passed a similar zoning ordinance in December of 2020. These zoning overlays permit greater height and density for ministerial approval 100% Below Market-Rate housing developments, following objective design criteria. The intent of these ordinances is to increase the availability of infill sites with an advantage for affordable housing development where nonprofit and public entities may otherwise be unable to compete win the private market, as well as promoting a more equitable distribution of affordable housing in cities where class and racial segregation still mirrors the historical legacy of redlining and Jim Crow-era racial covenants.

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<sup>3</sup> UC Berkeley Turner Center for Housing Innovation. (2019). Affordable Housing Overlays: Oakley. Retrieved from [https://turnercenter.berkeley.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Affordable\\_Housing\\_Overlay\\_Zones\\_Oakley.pdf](https://turnercenter.berkeley.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Affordable_Housing_Overlay_Zones_Oakley.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> <http://housing.abag.ca.gov/policysearch>

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.friendsofrpe.org/files/HOZ\\_Fact\\_Sheet\\_FINAL\\_7-27-10%282%29.pdf](http://www.friendsofrpe.org/files/HOZ_Fact_Sheet_FINAL_7-27-10%282%29.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> Sennott, A. (2020). Mayor: ‘An important social justice moment.’ Councilors pass Affordable Housing Overlay after more than 20 community meetings. *WickedLocal.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.wickedlocal.com/story/cambridge-chronicle-tab/2020/10/06/an-important-social-justice-moment-cambridge-councilors-pass-affordable-housing-overlay/114657068/>

These ordinances preserve open space requirements and comport with restrictions on historic districts. The Somerville<sup>7</sup> and Cambridge<sup>8</sup> Overlays were overwhelmingly supported by nonprofit affordable housing developers and activists. The city of Boston is now exploring similar policy initiatives.<sup>9</sup>

Prior to introduction of the city's Affordable Housing Overlay policy, Somerville City Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen, chair of the council's Land Use Committee, directed city staff to survey the region's affordable housing. "Overwhelmingly, we heard about two obstacles," Ewen-Campen wrote.<sup>10</sup>

*First, and most obviously, is the cost of land. Today, it is nearly impossible for any non-profit housing developer to purchase property in Somerville. This is no surprise: they are competing against "market rate" developers and investors who can afford to pay far more because they'll soon be making windfall profits in our red-hot real estate market. Second, the funding agencies that support affordable housing are looking for predictability and certainty in the projects they support. This means that the uncertainty, delays, and discretionary nature of the permitting process in Somerville can be a major issue when attempting to secure funding. Together, these two obstacles mean that new affordable units in Somerville are almost always created by market rate developers through Somerville's "20% inclusionary zoning" policy, which is absolutely necessary but nowhere near sufficient to meet Somerville's goals for affordability.*

Affordable housing nonprofits face similar fiscal and regulatory barriers to developing much-needed low- and moderate-income housing.

While Berkeley does not have an abundance of vacant and/or publicly-owned land close to transit to help meet these goals, an Affordable Housing Overlay permitting residential uses on commercial corridors for 100% affordable housing can tap into an abundant subset of commercial parcels with residential potential in the city. According to a study by the UC Berkeley Turner Center for Housing Innovation, mid-sized cities in the San Francisco Bay Area have an average of 32.4% of land zoned for commercial uses, and

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<sup>7</sup> Taliesin, J. (2020). Somerville moves to facilitate local affordable housing development. *WickedLocal.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.wickedlocal.com/story/somerville-journal/2020/11/23/residents-support-citys-move-ease-affordable-housing-development/6328944002/>

<sup>8</sup> Eisner, D. (2020). The Historic Affordable Housing Overlay Is about to Pass. How Did It Overcome so Many Obstacles? *A Better Cambridge*. Retrieved from [https://www.abettercambridge.org/the\\_historic\\_affordable\\_housing\\_overlay\\_is\\_about\\_to\\_pass\\_how\\_did\\_it\\_come\\_so\\_many\\_obstacles](https://www.abettercambridge.org/the_historic_affordable_housing_overlay_is_about_to_pass_how_did_it_come_so_many_obstacles)

<sup>9</sup> Logan, T. (2020). Boston to consider looser zoning for affordable housing. *The Boston Herald*. Retrieved from <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2020/08/24/business/boston-mull-looser-zoning-affordable-housing/>

<sup>10</sup> Ewen-Campen, B. (2020). We need a city-wide 'Affordable Housing Overlay District' in Somerville. *The Somerville Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.thesomervilletimes.com/archives/103539>

this land tends to be evenly distributed between high- and low-opportunity neighborhoods as defined by the state's Tax Credit Allocation Committee.<sup>11</sup>

As the Home for All SMC Housing Overlay Zone fact sheet explains: "In locations where the zoning doesn't allow residential development, HOZs can enable housing construction while avoiding the lengthy process of amending a general plan."<sup>12</sup>

### ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Due to aforementioned state laws, there is no alternative in which the City of Berkeley does not rezone certain areas to meet its upcoming RHNA goals and have a certified Housing Element. While the city could simply abide by the standards set forth in AB-1763 with no additional incentives or streamlining for 100% affordable housing, this would risk insufficiently prioritizing low- and moderate-income housing, and is inconsistent with goals already identified by the City Manager's office to reduce homelessness and housing insecurity.

The City Manager's 1000 Person Plan to End Homelessness<sup>13</sup> includes among its strategic recommendations:

*"Continue implementing changes to Berkeley's Land Use, Zoning, and Development Review Requirements for new housing with an eye towards alleviating homelessness. If present economic trends continue, the pace with which new housing is currently being built in Berkeley will likely not allow for a declining annual homeless population. Berkeley should continue to streamline development approval processes and reform local policies to help increase the overall supply of housing available."*

### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

A 2019 study of displacement and gentrification in Seattle<sup>14</sup> found qualitative evidence that the displacement of low-income households from central urban neighborhoods could increase emissions from the area with the influx of higher-income households with more carbon-intensive consumption, while those displaced may be more likely to move to where they contribute higher Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) in suburban communities. At the same time, research from UC Berkeley<sup>15</sup> confirms that high-income households

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<sup>11</sup> Romem, I. & Garcia, D. (2020). Residential Redevelopment of Commercially Zoned Land in California. UC Berkeley Turner Center for Housing Innovation. Retrieved from <https://turnercenter.berkeley.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Residential-Redevelopment-of-Commercially-Zoned-Land-in-California-December-2020.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> <https://homeforallsmc.org/toolkits/housing-overlay-zones/>

<sup>13</sup> [https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City\\_Council/2019/02\\_Feb/Documents/2019-02-26\\_Item\\_20\\_Referral\\_Response\\_1000\\_Person\\_Plan.aspx](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City_Council/2019/02_Feb/Documents/2019-02-26_Item_20_Referral_Response_1000_Person_Plan.aspx)

<sup>14</sup> Rice, J. L., Cohen, D. A., Long, J., & Jurjevich, J. R. (2019). Contradictions of the Climate-Friendly City: New Perspectives on Eco-Gentrification and Housing Justice. International Journal of Urban and Regional Research. doi:10.1111/1468-2427.12740

<sup>15</sup> Jones, C. et al. (2017). Carbon Footprint Planning: Quantifying Local and State Mitigation

moving to low-VMT urban neighborhoods enables major reductions in per-capita emissions. An Affordable Housing Overlay coupled with the city's Local Preference policy could promote environmental justice and reduce per-capita VMT pursuant to goals established in the city's Climate Action Plan.

### FISCAL IMPACTS

TBD.

The City Manager's 1000 Person Plan to End Homelessness notes that the fiscal impact of land use reform "could not be quantified" at the time the report was issued.

### CONTACT

Councilmember Terry Taplin (District 2), 510-983-7120, [ttaplin@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:ttaplin@cityofberkeley.info)

### ATTACHMENTS/SUPPORTING MATERIALS

1. Resolution
2. Cambridge, MA: Ordinance No. 2020-8
3. Assembly Bill 1763 (2019)

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

WHEREAS the San Francisco Bay Area is in the midst of a crisis-level housing shortage disproportionately affecting low- and moderate-income households; and,

WHEREAS the City of Berkeley has failed to meet its Regional Housing Needs Allocation production goals for low- and moderate-income households in the 2014-2022 RHNA cycle; and,

WHEREAS the 2022-2031 RHNA cycle will likely allocate over 9,000 housing units to the City of Berkeley, while the previous cycle's housing needs for low- and moderate-income households remain unmet; and,

WHEREAS Assembly Bill 1763, passed in 2019, enables greater density and height allowances for 100% affordable housing, with low- and moderate-income households defined by Section 50053 of the Health and Safety Code; and,

WHEREAS state law will mandate sufficient residential capacity in the City's general plan to align its zoning with its housing element and RHNA goals;

WHEREAS the City of Oakley authorized an Affordable Housing Overlay in 2005 to meet its low-income RHNA goals; and,

WHEREAS several cities in the State of Massachusetts have implemented Affordable Housing Overlay policies to increase density in high-opportunity neighborhoods near transit to reverse patterns of historic segregation, produce more affordable housing, and give affordable housing profits an advantage in parcel acquisition;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Berkeley refers to the City Manager and Planning Commission revisions to the zoning code and General Plan, permitting increased height and density for 100% affordable housing developments, including but not limited to:

1. Exceeding standards set forth in California Government Code Section 65915 with additional height and density incentives for qualifying 100% affordable projects deed-restricted for low- and moderate-income households:
  - a. An additional 33' local density bonus for qualifying projects with low- and moderate-income units deed-restricted for households earning up to 100% of Area Median Income, aiming to maximize total unit count restricted for Very Low and Extremely Low Income households;
  - b. Expanding waiver of density limits, including units per acre and floor area ratio, for transit-adjacent projects to include all parcels within one half mile of a commuter rail station, and within 1/4 mile of an AC Transit bus route with 7-day service in Fiscal Year 2019;
  - c. Reduced density limits for projects outside of transit proximity threshold with additional Transportation Demand Management (TDM) policies, including bike parking, paratransit and shared micro-mobility systems;

- d. Ministerial approval of all qualifying projects meeting objective design criteria and union labor requirements;
- a. Exempting parcels with Designated Historic Landmarks and maintaining demolition restrictions consistent with state law;
2. Ministerial approval for a baseline of 76' for 100% affordable residential dwelling units in all commercial zones, with provisions for ground-floor retail and/or live-work space;
3. In R-1, R-1A and R-2 zones, provide ministerial approval for two-story local density bonus for 100% affordable housing, with waived density requirements for dwelling units per acre and lot coverage. On parcels within high-risk wildfire zones as determined by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire), ministerial approval for 100% affordable projects should be contingent on fire-blocking design and defensible space standards certified by the Planning Department;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Berkeley directs the Planning Commission and staff to codify an Affordable Housing Overlay for 100% affordable housing as specified above in 2021-2022 work plans in anticipation of 2023-2031 RHNA targets.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2020-8 – First Publication**

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

In the Year Two Thousand and Twenty

AN ORDINANCE

ORDERED: That the attached proposed zoning ordinance establishing an Affordable Housing Overlay be submitted by the City Council, and that it be referred to the Committee on Ordinances and the Planning Board for public hearings, as provided in Chapter 40A, Section 5 of the Massachusetts General Laws, to wit:

ORDERED: That the Cambridge City Council amend Section 2.000, DEFINITIONS, of the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Cambridge amended to insert the following definitions alphabetically:

**Affordable Housing Overlay (AHO).** A set of modified development standards set forth in Section 11.207.3 of this Zoning Ordinance intended to allow incremental increases in density, limited increases in height, and relaxation of certain other zoning limitations for residential developments in which all units are made permanently affordable to households earning up to 100% of area median income.

**Affordable Housing Overlay (AHO) Dwelling Unit.** A dwelling unit within an AHO Project for which occupancy is restricted to an AHO Eligible Household and whose rent or initial sale price is established by the provisions of Section 11.207.3 of this Zoning Ordinance.

**Affordable Housing Overlay (AHO) Eligible Household.** A household whose gross household income does not exceed the amounts set forth in Section 11.207.3 of this Zoning Ordinance.

**Affordable Housing Overlay (AHO) Project.** The construction of a new building or buildings and/or the modification of an existing building or buildings resulting in single-family, two-family, townhouse, or multifamily dwellings within which each dwelling unit is an AHO Dwelling Unit subject to the standards and restrictions set forth in Section 11.207 of this Zoning Ordinance.

**Grade.** The mean finished ground elevation of a lot measured either around the entire perimeter of the building or along any existing wall facing a public street, which ground elevation is maintained naturally without any structural support.

**Ground Story or Ground Floor.** The lowest Story Above Grade within a building. Story. That portion of a building included between the upper surface of a floor and the upper surface of the floor or roof next above.

**Story Above Grade.** A Story whose highest point is more than 4 feet above the Grade.

**Story Below Grade.** Any Story that is lower than the Ground Story of a building.

ORDERED: That the Cambridge City Council amend of the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Cambridge, by inserting a new section 11.207, **AFFORDABLE HOUSING OVERLAY**, to read as follows:

11.207.1 Purpose and Intent

The purpose of this Section is to promote the public good by supporting the development of housing that is affordable to households earning up to 100% of area median income. The intent of this Section is to allow incremental increases in density, limited increases in height, and relaxation of certain other zoning limitations for residential developments in which all units are made permanently affordable to households earning up to 100% of area median income (referred to as “AHO Projects,” as defined in Article 2.000 of this Zoning Ordinance); to incentivize the reuse of existing buildings in order to create AHO Projects that are more compatible with established neighborhood character; to promote the city’s urban design objectives in Section 19.30 of this Zoning Ordinance while enabling AHO Projects to be permitted as-of-right, subject to non-binding advisory design consultation procedures that follow all design objectives set forth within this Zoning Ordinance and the results of the design review process shall be provided to the Cambridge Affordable Housing Trust; and to apply such standards throughout the City, to promote city planning goals of achieving greater socioeconomic diversity and a more equitable distribution of affordable housing citywide.

11.207.2 Applicability

- (a) The provisions set forth in this Section shall apply to AHO Projects, as defined in Article 2.000 of this Zoning Ordinance, in all zoning districts except Open Space Districts.
- (b) An AHO Project shall be permitted as-of-right if it meets all of the standards set forth in this Affordable Housing Overlay in place of the requirements otherwise applicable in the zoning district. Any development not meeting all of

the standards set forth in this Affordable Housing Overlay shall be subject to the requirements otherwise applicable in the zoning district, including any requirements for special permits.

11.207.3 Standards for Eligibility, Rent, and Initial Sale Price for AHO Dwelling Units

- (a) All dwelling units in an AHO Project shall comply with the standards for AHO Dwelling Units as set forth in this Section.
- (b) For all AHO Dwelling Units:
  - (i) AHO Dwelling Units shall be rented or sold only to AHO Eligible Households, with preference given to Cambridge residents, and former Cambridge residents who experienced a no-fault eviction in Cambridge in the last twelve (12) months, in accordance with standards and procedures related to selection, asset limits, and marketing established by the Community Development Department (CDD) and applicable state funding requirements.
  - (ii) AHO Dwelling Units shall be created and conveyed subject to recorded covenants approved by CDD guaranteeing the permanent availability of the AHO Dwelling Units for AHO Eligible Households.
- (c) For rental AHO Dwelling Units:
  - (i) The gross household income of an AHO Eligible Household upon initial occupancy shall be no more than one-hundred percent (100%) of AMI.
  - (ii) At least eighty percent (80%) of AHO Dwelling Units within the project shall be occupied by AHO Eligible Households whose gross household income upon initial occupancy is no more than eighty percent (80%) of AMI.
  - (iii) Rent, including utilities and any other fees routinely charged to tenants and approved by CDD, shall not exceed thirty percent (30%) of the gross household income of the AHO Eligible Household occupying the AHO Dwelling Unit or other similar standard pursuant to an applicable housing subsidy program which has been approved by CDD.

- (iv) After initial occupancy, the gross household income of an AHO Eligible Household shall be verified annually, or on such other basis required by an applicable housing subsidy program which has been approved by CDD, to determine continued eligibility and rent, in accordance with policies, standards, and procedures established by CDD.
  - (v) An AHO Eligible Household may continue to rent an AHO Dwelling Unit after initial occupancy even if the AHO Eligible Household's gross household income exceeds the eligibility limits set forth above, but may not exceed one hundred twenty percent (120%) of AMI for more than one year after that Eligible Household's gross household income has been verified to exceed such percentage, unless otherwise restricted pursuant to an applicable housing subsidy program which has been approved by CDD.
  - (vi) Notwithstanding the requirements set forth in (i) through (v) above, an owner may voluntarily choose to charge a lower rent than as provided herein for AHO Dwelling Units.
- (d) For owner-occupied AHO Dwelling Units:
- (i) The gross household income of an AHO Eligible Household upon initial occupancy shall be no more than one-hundred percent (100%) of AMI.
  - (ii) At least fifty percent (50%) of AHO Dwelling Units shall be sold to AHO Eligible Households whose gross household income upon initial occupancy is no more than eighty percent (80%) of AMI.
  - (iii) The initial sale price of an AHO Dwelling Unit shall be approved by CDD and shall be determined to ensure that the monthly housing payment (which shall include debt service at prevailing mortgage loan interest rates, utilities, condominium or related fees, insurance, real estate taxes, and parking fees, if any) shall not exceed thirty percent (30%) of the monthly income of:
    - 1) A household earning ninety percent (90%) of AMI, in the case of an AHO Dwelling Unit to be sold to an AHO Eligible Household whose income upon initial

occupancy is no more than one-hundred percent (100%) of AMI; or

- 2) A household earning seventy percent (70%) of AMI, in the case of an AHO Dwelling Unit to be sold to an AHO Eligible Household whose income upon initial occupancy is no more than eighty percent (80%) of AMI
- (e) An AHO Project meeting the standards set forth herein as approved by CDD shall not be required to comply with the Inclusionary Housing Requirements set forth in 11.203 of this Zoning Ordinance.

#### 11.207.4 Use

- (a) In all zoning districts, an AHO Project may contain single-family, two-family, townhouse, or multifamily dwellings as-of-right. Townhouse and Multifamily Special Permit procedures shall not apply.
- (b) An AHO Project may contain active non-residential uses on the ground floor as they may be permitted as-of-right in the base zoning district or the overlay district(s) that are applicable to a lot, which for the purpose of this Section shall be limited to Institutional Uses listed in Section 4.33, Office Uses listed in Section 4.34 Paragraphs a. through e., and Retail and Consumer Service uses listed in Section 4.35 that provide services to the general public.

#### 11.207.5 Development Standards

##### 11.207.5.1 General Provisions

- (a) For the purposes of this Section, the phrase “District Development Standards” shall refer to the development standards of the base zoning district as they may be modified by the development standards of all overlay districts (with the exception of this Affordable Housing Overlay) that are applicable to a lot.
- (b) District Dimensional Standards shall include the most permissive standards allowable on a lot, whether such standards are permitted as-of-right or allowable by special permit. A District Dimensional Standard that is allowable by special permit shall include any nondiscretionary requirements or limitations that would otherwise apply.

- (c) An AHO Project that conforms to the following development standards shall not be subject to other limitations that may be set forth in Article 5.000 or other Sections of this Zoning Ordinance, except as otherwise stated in this Section.

11.207.5.2 Dimensional Standards for AHO Projects

11.207.5.2.1 Building Height and Stories Above Grade. For an AHO Project, the standards set forth below shall apply in place of any building height limitations set forth in the District Development Standards.

- (a) Where the District Dimensional Standards set forth a maximum residential building height of forty (40) feet or less, an AHO Project shall contain no more than four (4) Stories Above Grade and shall have a maximum height of forty-five (45) feet, as measured from existing Grade. For AHO Projects containing active non-residential uses on the ground floor, the maximum height may be increased to fifty (50) feet but the number of Stories Above Grade shall not exceed four (4) stories.
- (b) Where the District Dimensional Standards set forth a maximum residential building height of more than forty (40) feet but not more than fifty (50) feet, an AHO Project shall contain no more than six (6) Stories Above Grade and shall have a maximum height of sixty-five (65) feet, as measured from existing Grade, except as further limited below. For AHO Projects containing active non-residential uses on the ground floor, the maximum height may be increased to seventy (70) feet but the number of Stories Above Grade shall not exceed six (6) stories.
  - (i) Except where the AHO Project abuts a non-residential use, portions of an AHO Project that are within thirty-five (35) feet of a district whose District Dimensional Standards allow a maximum residential building height of forty (40) feet or less shall be limited by the provisions of Paragraph (a) above, except that if the AHO project parcel extends into that District, then the height limitation shall only extend thirty five (35) feet from the property line.
- (c) Where the District Dimensional Standards set forth a maximum residential building height of more than fifty (50) feet, an AHO Project shall contain no more than seven (7) Stories Above Grade and shall have a maximum height

of eighty (80) feet, as measured from existing Grade, except as further limited below.

- (i) Except where the AHO Project abuts a non-residential use, portions of an AHO Project that are within thirty-five (35) feet of a district whose District Dimensional Standards allow a maximum residential building height of forty (40) feet or less shall be reduced to a minimum of five (5) Stories Above Grade or a maximum height of sixty (60) feet, as measured from existing Grade, except that if the AHO project parcel extends into that District, then the height limitation shall only extend thirty five (35) feet from the property line.
- (d) The Height Exceptions set forth in Section 5.23 of this Zoning Ordinance shall apply when determining the building height of an AHO Project.

#### 11.207.5.2.2 Residential Density

- (a) Where the District Dimensional Standards establish a maximum floor area ratio (FAR) of less than 1.00, an AHO Project shall not exceed an FAR of 2.00. Otherwise, there shall be no maximum FAR for an AHO Project.
- (b) There shall be no minimum lot area per dwelling unit for an AHO Project.

#### 11.207.5.2.3 Yard Setbacks

- (a) For the purpose of this Section, the applicable District Dimensional Standards shall not include yard setback requirements based on a formula calculation as provided in Section 5.24.4 of the Zoning Ordinance, but shall include non-derived minimum yard setback requirements set forth in Article 5.000 or other Sections of this Zoning Ordinance.
- (b) Front Yards. An AHO Project shall have a minimum front yard setback of 15 feet, except where the District Dimensional Standards establish a less restrictive requirement, or may be reduced to the average of the front yard setbacks of the four (4) nearest pre-existing principal buildings that contain at least two Stories Above Grade and directly front the same side of the street as the AHO Project, or may be reduced to a minimum of ten (10) feet in the case of an AHO Project on a corner lot. Where the District Dimensional Standards set forth different requirements for residential and non-residential uses, the

non-residential front yard setback requirement shall apply to the entire AHO Project if the Ground Story contains a non-residential use as set forth in Section 11.207.4 Paragraph (b) above; otherwise, the residential front yard setback shall apply.

- (c) Side Yards. An AHO Project shall have a minimum side yard setback of seven and one-half (7.5) feet, or may be reduced to the minimum side yard setback set forth in the District Dimensional Standards for residential uses that is not derived by formula if it is less restrictive.
- (d) Rear Yards. An AHO Project shall have a minimum rear yard setback of twenty (20) feet, or may be reduced to the minimum rear yard setback set forth in the District Dimensional Standards for residential uses that is not derived by formula if it is less restrictive.
- (e) Projecting eaves, chimneys, bay windows, balconies, open fire escapes and like projections which do not project more than three and one-half (3.5) feet from the principal exterior wall plane, and unenclosed steps, unroofed porches and the like which do not project more than ten (10) feet beyond the line of the foundation wall and which are not over four (4) feet above Grade, may extend beyond the minimum yard setback.
- (f) Bicycle parking spaces, whether short-term or long-term, and appurtenant structures such as coverings, sheds, or storage lockers may be located within a required yard setback but no closer than seven and one-half (7.5) feet to an existing principal residential structure on an abutting lot.

#### 11.207.5.2.4 Open Space

- (a) Except where the District Dimensional Standards establish a less restrictive requirement or as otherwise provided below, the minimum percentage of open space to lot area for an AHO Project shall be thirty percent (30%). However, the minimum percentage of open space to lot area may be reduced to no less than fifteen percent (15%) if the AHO Project includes the preservation and protection of an existing building included on the State Register of Historic Places.
- (b) The required open space shall be considered Private Open Space but shall be subject to the limitations set forth below and shall not be subject to the dimensional and other limitations set forth in Section 5.22 of this Zoning

Ordinance. Private Open Space shall exclude parking and driveways for automobiles.

- (c) All of the required open space that is located at grade shall meet the definition of Permeable Open Space as set forth in this Zoning Ordinance.
- (d) The required open space shall be located at Grade or on porches and decks that are no higher than the floor elevation of the lowest Story Above Grade, except that up to twenty five percent (25%) of the required open space may be located at higher levels, such as balconies and decks, only if it is accessible to all occupants of the building.
- (e) For the purpose of this Affordable Housing Overlay, area used for covered or uncovered bicycle parking spaces that are not contained within a building shall be considered Private Open Space.

#### 11.207.5.3 Standards for Existing Buildings

A building that is in existence as of the effective date of this Ordinance and does not conform to the standards set forth in Section 11.207.5.2 above may be altered, reconstructed, extended, relocated, and/or enlarged for use as an AHO Project as-of-right in accordance with the standards set forth below. Except as otherwise stated, the required dimensional characteristics of the building and site shall be those existing at the time of the conversion to an AHO Project if they do not conform to the standards of Section 11.207.5.2. The following modifications shall be permitted as-of-right, notwithstanding the limitations set forth in Article 8.000 of this Zoning Ordinance:

- (a) Construction occurring entirely within an existing structure, including the addition of Gross Floor Area within the interior of the existing building envelope that may violate or further violate FAR limitations set forth in Section 11.207.5.2, and including any increase to the number of dwelling units within the existing building, provided that the resulting number of Stories Above Grade is not more than the greater of the existing number of Stories Above Grade or the existing height of the building divided by 10 feet.
- (b) The relocation, enlargement, or addition of windows, doors, skylights, or similar openings to the exterior of a building.

- (c) The addition of insulation to the exterior of an existing exterior wall to improve energy efficiency, provided that the resulting exterior plane of the wall shall either conform to the yard setback standards set forth in Section 11.207.5.2 above or shall not intrude more than eight (8) inches further into the existing yard setback and provided that the lot shall either conform to the open space standards set forth in Section 11.207.5.2 or shall not decrease the existing open space by more than 5% or 100 square feet, whichever is greater.
- (d) The installation of exterior features necessary for the existing structure to be adapted to meet accessibility standards for persons with disabilities, including but not limited to walkways, ramps, lifts, or elevators, which may violate or further violate of the dimensional requirements set forth in Section 11.207.5.2.
- (e) The repair, reconstruction, or replacement of any preexisting nonconforming portions of a building including but not limited to porches, decks, balconies, bay windows and building additions, provided that the repair, reconstruction or replacement does not exceed the original in footprint, volume, or area.
- (f) Any other alterations, additions, extensions, or enlargements to the existing building that are not further in violation of the dimensional requirements set forth in Section 11.207.5.2 above.

#### 11.207.6 Parking and Bicycle Parking

The limitations set forth in Article 6.000 of this Zoning Ordinance shall be modified as set forth below for an AHO Project.

##### 11.207.6.1 Required Off-Street Accessory Parking

- (a) There shall be no required minimum number of off-street parking spaces for an AHO Project except to the extent necessary to conform to other applicable laws, codes, or regulations.
- (b) An AHO Project of greater than 20 units, for which no off-street parking is provided shall provide or have access to either on-street or off-street facilities that can accommodate passenger pick-up and drop-off by motor vehicles and short-term loading by moving vans or small delivery trucks. The Cambridge Traffic, Parking, and Transportation Department shall certify to the Superintendent of Buildings

that the AHO Project is designed to reasonably accommodate such activity without causing significant hazard or congestion. The Cambridge Director of Traffic, Parking, and Transportation shall have the authority to promulgate regulations for the implementation of the provisions of this Paragraph.

11.207.6.2 Accessory Parking Provided Off-Site

- (a) Off-street parking facilities may be shared by multiple AHO Projects, provided that the requirements of this Section are met by all AHO Dwelling Units served by the facility and the facility is within 1,000 feet of all AHO Projects that it serves.
- (b) Off-street parking facilities for an AHO Project may be located within existing parking facilities located within 1,000 feet of the AHO Project and in a district where parking is permitted as a principal use or where the facility is a pre-existing nonconforming principal use parking facility, provided that the owner of the AHO Project shall provide evidence of fee ownership, a long-term lease agreement or renewable short-term lease agreement, recorded covenant, or comparable legal instrument to guarantee, to the reasonable satisfaction of the Superintendent of Buildings, that such facilities will be available to residents of the AHO Project.

11.207.6.3 Modifications to Design and Layout Standards for Off-Street Parking

- (a) Notwithstanding Section 6.43.2, parking spaces may be arranged in tandem without requiring a special permit, provided that no more than two cars may be parked within any tandem parking space.
- (b) Notwithstanding Section 6.43.6, owners of adjacent properties may establish common driveways under mutual easements without requiring a special permit.
- (c) Notwithstanding Paragraph 6.44.1(a), on-grade open parking spaces may be located within ten (10) feet but not less than five (5) feet from the Ground Story of a building on the same lot or seven and one-half (7.5) feet from the Ground Story of a building on an adjacent lot without requiring a special permit, provided that such parking spaces are screened from buildings on abutting lots by a fence or other dense year-round visual screen.

- (d) Notwithstanding Paragraph 6.44.1(b), on-grade open parking spaces and driveways may be located within five (5) feet of a side or rear property line without requiring a special permit, provided that screening is provided in the form of a fence or other dense year-round visual screen at the property line, unless such screening is waived by mutual written agreement of the owner of the lot and the owner of the abutting lot.

#### 11.207.6.4 Modifications to Bicycle Parking Standards

- (a) Notwithstanding Section 6.104, long-term or short-term bicycle parking spaces may be located anywhere on the lot for an AHO Project or on an adjacent lot in common ownership or under common control.
- (b) Notwithstanding Section 6.107.5, up to 20 long-term bicycle parking spaces may be designed to meet the requirements for Short-Term Bicycle Parking Spaces, so long as they are covered from above to be protected from precipitation.
- (c) The requirement for short-term bicycle parking shall be waived where only four or fewer short-term bicycle parking spaces would otherwise be required.
- (d) The number of required bicycle parking spaces shall be reduced by half, up to a maximum reduction of 28 spaces, where a standard-size (19-dock) Public Bicycle Sharing Station is provided on the lot or by the developer of the AHO Project on a site within 500 feet of the lot, with the written approval of the City if located on a public street or other City property, or otherwise by legally enforceable mutual agreement with the owner of the land on which the station is located as approved by the Community Development Department. If additional Public Bicycle Sharing Station docks are provided, the number of required bicycle parking spaces may be further reduced at a rate of 0.5 bicycle parking space per additional Public Bicycle Sharing Station dock, up to a maximum reduction of half of the required number of spaces.
- (e) For AHO Dwelling Units created within an existing building, bicycle parking spaces meeting the standards of this Zoning Ordinance shall not be required but are encouraged to be provided to the extent practical given the limitations of the existing structure. Bicycle parking spaces shall be provided, as required by this Zoning Ordinance, for

dwelling units in an AHO Project that are constructed fully outside the envelope of the existing structure.

11.207.6.5 Transportation Demand Management

An AHO Project not providing off-street parking at a ratio of 0.4 space per dwelling unit or more shall provide, in writing, to the Community Development Department a Transportation Demand Management program containing the following measures, at a minimum:

- (a) Offering either a free annual membership in a Public Bicycle Sharing Service, at the highest available tier where applicable, or a 50% discounted MBTA combined subway and bus pass for six months or pass of equivalent value, to up to two individuals in each household upon initial occupancy of a unit.
- (b) Providing transit information in the form of transit maps and schedules to each household upon initial occupancy of a unit, or providing information and a real-time transit service screen in a convenient common area of the building such as an entryway or lobby.

11.207.7 Building and Site Design Standards for New Development

11.207.7.1 General Provisions

- (a) Except where otherwise stated, the Project Review requirements set forth in Article 19.000 of this Zoning Ordinance and any design standards set forth in Section 19.50 or elsewhere in the Zoning Ordinance shall be superseded by the following standards for an AHO Project.
- (b) The following design standards shall apply to new construction and to additions to existing structures. Except as otherwise provided, an existing building that is altered or moved to accommodate an AHO Project shall not be subject to the following standards, provided that such alterations do not create a condition that is in greater nonconformance with such standards than the existing condition.

11.207.7.2 Site Design and Arrangement

- (a) The area directly between the front lot line and the principal wall plane of the building nearest to the front lot line shall consist of any combination of landscaped area, hardscaped area accessible to pedestrians and bicyclists,

and usable spaces such as uncovered porches, patios, or balconies. Parking shall not be located within such area, except for driveway access which shall be limited to a total of thirty (30) feet of width for any individual driveway for each one hundred (100) feet of lot frontage.

- (b) Pedestrian entrances to buildings shall be visible from the street, except where the building itself is not visible from the street due to its location. All pedestrian entrances shall be accessible by way of access routes that are separated from motor vehicle access drives.
- (c) A building footprint exceeding two hundred and fifty (250) feet in length, measured parallel to the street, shall contain a massing recess extending back at least fifteen (15) feet in depth measured from and perpendicular to the front lot line and at least fifteen (15) feet in width measured parallel to the front lot line so that the maximum length of unbroken façade is one hundred fifty (150) feet.

#### 11.207.7.3 Building Façades

- (a) At least twenty percent (20%) of the area of building façades facing a public street or public open space shall consist of clear glass windows. For buildings located in a Business A (BA), Business A-2 (BA-2), Business B (BB) or Business C (BC) zoning district, this figure shall be increased to thirty percent (30%) for non-residential portions of the building, if any.
- (b) Building façades shall incorporate architectural elements that project or recess by at least two feet from the adjacent section of the façade. Such projecting or recessed elements shall occur on an average interval of 40 linear horizontal feet or less for portions of the façade directly facing a public street, and on an average interval of 80 linear horizontal feet or less for other portions of the façade. Such projecting or recessed elements shall not be required on the lowest Story Above Grade or on the highest Story Above Grade, and shall not be required on the highest two Stories Above Grade of a building containing at least six Stories Above Grade. The intent is to incorporate elements such as bays, balconies, cornices, shading devices, or similar architectural elements that promote visual interest and residential character, and to allow variation at the ground floor and on upper floors where a different architectural treatment may be preferable.

#### 11.207.7.4 Ground Stories and Stories Below Grade

- (a) The elevation at floor level of the Ground Story shall be at the mean Grade of the abutting public sidewalk, or above such mean Grade by not more than four feet. Active non-residential uses at the Ground Story shall be accessible directly from the sidewalk without requiring use of stairs or a lift. The requirements of this paragraph shall not apply if it is determined by the City Engineer that a higher Ground Story elevation is necessary for the purpose of flood protection.
- (b) Where structured parking is provided within the Ground Story of a building, the portion of the building immediately behind the front wall plane shall consist of residential units, common areas, or other populated portions of the building in order to screen the provided parking over at least seventy-five percent (75%) of the length of the façade measured parallel to the street and excluding portions of the façade used for driveway access. On a corner lot, the requirements of this Paragraph shall only apply along one street.
- (c) The façade of a Ground Story facing a public street shall consist of expanses no longer than twenty-five (25) feet in length, measured parallel to the street, which contain no transparent windows or pedestrian entryways.
- (d) If the Ground Story is designed to accommodate active non-residential uses, the following additional standards shall apply:
  - (i) the height of the Ground Story for that portion of the building containing active non-residential uses shall be at least fifteen (15) feet;
  - (ii) the depth of the space designed for active non-residential uses shall be at least thirty-five (35) feet on average measured from the portion of the façade that is nearest to the front lot line in a direction perpendicular to the street, and measured to at least one street in instances where the space abuts two or more streets; and
  - (iii) that portion of the Ground Story façade containing active non-residential uses shall consist of at least thirty percent (30%) transparent glass windows or, if the use is a retail or consumer service establishment, at least thirty percent (30%) transparent glass windows, across the combined façade on both streets in the case of a corner lot.

- (e) Ground Stories shall be designed to accommodate at least one space, with a total frontage equaling at least fifty percent (50%) of the existing retail frontage, for an active non-residential use, which may include retail or consumer establishments as well as social service facilities supporting the mission of the owner of the AHO Project, on sites that are located in a Business base zoning district, and where the project site contains or has contained a retail and or consumer service use at any point within the past two years prior to application for a building permit for an AHO Project.
- (f) Private living spaces within dwelling units, including bedrooms, kitchens, and bathrooms, may only be contained within Stories Above Grade. Stories Below Grade may only contain portions of dwelling units providing entries, exits, or mechanical equipment, or common facilities for residents of the building, such as lobbies, recreation rooms, laundry, storage, parking, bicycle parking, or mechanical equipment

11.207.7.5 Mechanical Equipment, Refuse Storage, and Loading Areas

- (a) All mechanical equipment, refuse storage, or loading areas serving the building or its occupants that are (1) carried above the roof, (2) located at the exterior building wall or (3) located outside the building, shall meet the requirements listed below. Mechanical equipment includes, but is not limited to, ventilation equipment including exhaust fans and ducts, air conditioning equipment, elevator bulkheads, heat exchangers, transformers and any other equipment that, when in operation, potentially creates a noise detectable off the lot. The equipment and other facilities: (a) Shall not be located within any required setback. This Paragraph (a) shall not apply to electrical equipment whose location is mandated by a recognized public utility, provided that project plans submitted for review by the City identify a preferred location for such equipment.
- (b) When on the ground, shall be permanently screened from view from adjacent public streets that are within 100 feet of the building, or from the view from abutting property in separate ownership at the property line. The screening shall consist of a dense year-round screen equal or greater in height at the time of installation than the equipment or facilities to be screened, or a fence of equal or greater

height that is comparable in quality to the materials used on the principal facades of the building, with no more than twenty-five (25) percent of the face of the fence open with adjacent planting.

- (c) When carried above the roof, shall be set back from the principal wall plane by a dimension equal to at least the height of the equipment and permanently screened from view, from the ground, from adjacent public streets and any abutting residentially used lot or lots in a residential zoning district. The screening shall be at least seventy-five percent (75%) opaque and uniformly distributed across the screening surface, or opaque to the maximum extent permissible if other applicable laws, codes, or regulations mandate greater openness.
- (d) Shall meet all city, state and federal noise regulations, as applicable, as certified by a professional acoustical engineer if the Department of Inspectional Services deems such certification necessary.
- (e) That handle trash and other waste, shall be contained within the building or screened as required in this Section until properly disposed of.

#### 11.207.7.6 Environmental Design Standards

- (a) This Section shall not waive the Green Building Requirements set forth in Section 22.20 of this Zoning Ordinance that may otherwise apply to an AHO Project.
- (b) Where the provisions of the Flood Plain Overlay District apply to an AHO Project, the performance standards set forth in Section 20.70 of this Zoning Ordinance shall apply; however, a special permit shall not be required.
- (c) An AHO Project shall be subject to other applicable laws, regulations, codes, and ordinances pertaining to environmental standards.
- (d) New outdoor light fixtures installed in an AHO Project shall be fully shielded and directed to prevent light trespass onto adjacent residential lots.

#### 11.207.8 Advisory Design Consultation Procedure

Prior to application for a building permit, the developer of an AHO Project shall comply with the following procedure, which is intended to provide an opportunity for non-binding community and staff input into the design of the project.

- (a) The intent of this non-binding review process is to advance the City's desired outcomes for the form and character of AHO Projects. To promote the City's goal of creating more affordable housing units, AHO Projects are permitted to have a greater height, scale, and density than other developments permitted by the zoning for a given district. This procedure is intended to promote design outcomes that are compatible with the existing neighborhood context or with the City's future planning objectives for the area.
- (b) The City's "Design Guidelines for Affordable Housing Overlay," along with other design objectives and guidelines established for the part of the city in which the AHO Project is located, are intended to inform the design of AHO Projects and to guide the Planning Board's consultation and report as set forth below. It is intended that designers of AHO Projects, City staff, the Planning Board, and the general public will be open to creative variations from any detailed provisions set forth in such objectives and guidelines as long as the core values expressed are being served.
- (c) At least two community meetings shall be scheduled at a time and location that is convenient to residents in proximity to the project site. The Community Development Department (CDD) shall be notified of the time and location of such meetings, and shall give notification to abutters, owners of land directly opposite on any public or private street or way, and abutters to the abutters within three hundred feet of the property line of the lot on which the AHO Project is proposed and to any individual or organization who each year files with CDD a written request for such notification, or to any other individual or organization CDD may wish to notify.
  - (i) The purpose of the first community meeting shall be for the developer to share the site and street context analysis with neighborhood residents and other interested parties prior to building design, and receive feedback from community members.
  - (ii) The purpose of the subsequent community meeting(s) shall be to present preliminary project designs, answer questions from neighboring residents and other interested members of the public, and receive feedback on the design. The date(s), time(s), location(s), attendance, materials presented, and comments received at such

meeting(s) shall be documented and provided to CDD.

- (d) Following one or more such community meeting(s), the developer shall prepare the following materials for review by the Planning Board. CDD shall review to certify that the submitted written and graphic materials provide the required information in sufficient detail. All drawings shall be drawn to scale, shall include a graphic scale and north arrow for orientation, and shall provide labeled distances and dimensions for significant building and site features.
  - (i) A context map indicating the location of the project and surrounding land uses, including transportation facilities.
  - (ii) A context analysis, discussed with CDD staff, including existing front yard setbacks, architectural character, and unique features that inform and influence the design of the AHO Project.
  - (iii) An existing conditions site plan depicting the boundaries of the lot, the locations of buildings, open space features, parking areas, trees, and other major site features on the lot and abutting lots, and the conditions of abutting streets.
  - (iv) A proposed conditions site plan depicting the same information above as modified to depict the proposed conditions, including new buildings (identifying building entrances and uses on the ground floor and possible building roof deck) and major anticipated changes in site features.
  - (v) A design statement on how the proposed project attempts to reinforce existing street/context qualities and mitigates the planned project's greater massing, height, density, &c.
  - (vi) Floor plans of all proposed new buildings and existing buildings to remain on the lot.
  - (vii) Elevations and cross-section drawings of all proposed new buildings and existing buildings to remain on the lot, depicting the distances to lot lines and the heights of surrounding buildings, and labeling the proposed materials on each façade elevation.

- (viii) A landscape plan depicting and labeling all hardscape, permeable, and vegetated areas proposed for the site along with other structures or appurtenances on the site.
  - (ix) Plans of parking and bicycle parking facilities, as required by Section 6.50 of this Zoning Ordinance.
  - (x) Materials palettes cataloguing and depicting with photographs the proposed façade and landscape materials.
  - (xi) Existing conditions photographs from various vantage points on the public sidewalk, including photos of the site and of the surrounding urban context.
  - (xii) Proposed conditions perspective renderings from a variety of vantage points on the public sidewalk, including locations adjacent to the site as well as longer views if proposed buildings will be visible from a distance.
  - (xiii) A dimensional form, in a format provided by CDD, along with any supplemental materials, summarizing the general characteristics of the project and demonstrating compliance with applicable zoning requirements.
  - (xiv) A brief project narrative describing the project and the design approach, and indicating how the project has been designed in relation to the citywide urban design objectives set forth in Section 19.30 of the Zoning Ordinance, any design guidelines that have been established for the area, and the “Design Guidelines for Affordable Housing Overlay.”
  - (xv) Viewshed analysis and shadow studies that show the impact on neighboring properties with existing Solar Energy Systems.
  - (xvi) An initial development budget that shows anticipated funding sources and uses including developer fee and overhead.
- (e) Within 65 days of receipt of a complete set of materials by CDD, the Planning Board shall schedule a design consultation as a general business matter at a public meeting and shall give notification to abutters, owners of land directly opposite on any public or private street or

way, and abutters to the abutters within three hundred feet of the property line of the lot on which the AHO Project is proposed and to any individual or organization who each year files with CDD a written request for such notification, or to any other individual or organization CDD may wish to notify. The materials shall be made available to the public in advance, and the Planning Board may receive written comments prior to the meeting from City staff, abutters, and members of the public.

- (f) At the scheduled design consultation, the Planning Board shall hear a presentation of the proposal from the developer and oral comments from the public. The Board may ask questions or seek additional information from the developer or from City staff.
- (g) The Planning Board shall evaluate the proposal for general compliance with the requirements of this Section, for consistency with City development guidelines prepared for the proposal area and the “Design Guidelines for Affordable Housing Overlay,” for appropriateness in terms of other planned or programmed public or private development activities in the vicinity, and for consistency with the Citywide Urban Design Objectives set forth in Section 19.30. The Board may also suggest specific project adjustments and alterations to further the purposes of this Ordinance. The Board shall communicate its findings in a written report provided to the developer and to CDD within 20 days of the design consultation.
- (h) The developer may then make revisions to the design, in consultation with CDD staff, and shall submit a revised set of documents along with a narrative summary of the Planning Board’s comments and changes made in response to those comments.
- (i) The Planning Board shall review and discuss the revised documents at a second design consultation meeting, which shall proceed in accordance with Paragraphs (c) and (d) above. Following the second design consultation, the Planning Board may submit a revised report and either the revised report or if there are no revisions the initial report shall become the final report (the “Final Report”). Any additional design consultations to review further revisions may occur only at the discretion and on the request of the developer or the Cambridge Affordable Housing Trust.

- (j) The Final Report from the Planning Board shall be provided to the Superintendent of Buildings to certify compliance with the procedures set forth herein.

11.207.9 Implementation of Affordable Housing Overlay

- (a) The City Manager shall have the authority to promulgate regulations for the implementation of the provisions of this Section 11.207. There shall be a sixty-day review period, including a public meeting, to receive public comments on draft regulations before final promulgation.
- (b) The Community Development Department may develop standards, design guidelines, and procedures appropriate to and consistent with the provisions of this Sections 11.207 and the above regulations.

11.207.10 Enforcement of Affordable Housing Overlay

The Community Development Department shall certify in writing to the Superintendent of Buildings that all applicable provisions of this Section have been met before issuance of any building permit for any AHO Project, and shall further certify in writing to the Superintendent of Buildings that all documents have been filed and all actions taken necessary to fulfill the requirements of this Section before the issuance of any certificate of occupancy for any such project.

11.207.11 Review of Affordable Housing Overlay

- (a) Annual Report. CDD shall provide an annual status report to the City Council, beginning eighteen (18) months after ordination and continuing every year thereafter. The report shall contain the following information:
  - (i) List of sites considered for affordable housing development under the Affordable Housing Overlay, to the extent known by CDD, including site location, actions taken to initiate an AHO Project, and site status;
  - (ii) Description of each AHO Project underway or completed, including site location, number of units, unit types (number of bedrooms), tenure, and project status; and
  - (iii) Number of residents served by AHO Projects.
- (b) Five-Year Progress Review. Five (5) years after ordination, CDD shall provide to the City Council, Planning Board and

the Affordable Housing Trust, for its review, a report that assesses the effectiveness of the Affordable Housing Overlay in increasing the number of affordable housing units in the city, distributing affordable housing across City neighborhoods, and serving the housing needs of residents. The report shall also assess the effectiveness of the Advisory Design Consultation Procedure in gathering meaningful input from community members and the Planning Board and shaping AHO Projects to be consistent with the stated Design Objectives. The report shall evaluate the success of the Affordable Housing Overlay in balancing the goal of increasing affordable housing with other City planning considerations such as urban form, neighborhood character, environment, and mobility. The report shall discuss citywide outcomes as well as site-specific outcomes.

Passed to a second reading as amended at the City Council meeting held on September 14, 2020 and on or after October 5, 2020 the question comes on passage to be ordained.

Attest:- Anthony I. Wilson  
City Clerk

**Assembly Bill No. 1763**

CHAPTER 666

An act to amend Section 65915 of the Government Code, relating to housing.

[Approved by Governor October 9, 2019. Filed with Secretary  
of State October 9, 2019.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1763, Chiu. Planning and zoning: density bonuses: affordable housing.

Existing law, known as the Density Bonus Law, requires a city or county to provide a developer that proposes a housing development within the jurisdictional boundaries of that city or county with a density bonus and other incentives or concessions for the production of lower income housing units, or for the donation of land within the development, if the developer agrees to construct a specified percentage of units for very low income, low-income, or moderate-income households or qualifying residents and meets other requirements. Existing law provides for the calculation of the amount of density bonus for each type of housing development that qualifies under these provisions.

This bill would additionally require a density bonus to be provided to a developer who agrees to construct a housing development in which 100% of the total units, exclusive of managers' units, are for lower income households, as defined. However, the bill would provide that a housing development that qualifies for a density bonus under its provisions may include up to 20% of the total units for moderate-income households, as defined. The bill would also require that a housing development that meets these criteria receive 4 incentives or concessions under the Density Bonus Law and, if the development is located within ½ of a major transit stop, a height increase of up to 3 additional stories or 33 feet. The bill would generally require that the housing development receive a density bonus of 80%, but would exempt the housing development from any maximum controls on density if it is located within ½ mile of a major transit stop. The bill would prohibit a housing development that receives a waiver from any maximum controls on density under these provisions from receiving a waiver or reduction of development standards pursuant to existing law, other than as expressly provided in the bill. The bill would also make various nonsubstantive changes to the Density Bonus Law.

Existing law requires that an applicant for a density bonus agree to, and that the city and county ensure, the continued affordability of all very low and low-income rental units that qualified the applicant for a density bonus for at least 55 years, as provided. Existing law requires that the rent for

lower income density bonus units be set at an affordable rent, as defined in specified law.

This bill, for units, including both base density and density bonus units, in a housing development that qualifies for a density bonus under its provisions as described above, would instead require that the rent for at least 20% of the units in that development be set at an affordable rent, defined as described above, and that the rent for the remaining units be set at an amount consistent with the maximum rent levels for a housing development that receives an allocation of state or federal low-income housing tax credits from the California Tax Credit Allocation Committee.

Existing law, upon the request of the developer, prohibits a city, county, or city and county from requiring a vehicular parking ratio for a development meeting the eligibility requirements under the Density Bonus Law that exceeds specified ratios. For a development that consists solely of rental units, exclusive of a manager's unit or units, with an affordable housing cost to lower income families, as provided in specified law, and that is a special needs housing development, as defined, existing law limits that vehicular parking ratio to 0.3 spaces per unit.

This bill would instead, upon the request of the developer, prohibit a city, county, or city and county from imposing any minimum vehicular parking requirement for a development that consists solely of rental units, exclusive of a manager's unit or units, with an affordable housing cost to lower income families and is either a special needs housing development or a supportive housing development, as those terms are defined.

By adding to the duties of local planning officials with respect to the award of density bonuses, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 65915 of the Government Code, as amended by Chapter 937 of the Statutes of 2018, is amended to read:

65915. (a) (1) When an applicant seeks a density bonus for a housing development within, or for the donation of land for housing within, the jurisdiction of a city, county, or city and county, that local government shall comply with this section. A city, county, or city and county shall adopt an ordinance that specifies how compliance with this section will be implemented. Failure to adopt an ordinance shall not relieve a city, county, or city and county from complying with this section.

(2) A local government shall not condition the submission, review, or approval of an application pursuant to this chapter on the preparation of an

additional report or study that is not otherwise required by state law, including this section. This subdivision does not prohibit a local government from requiring an applicant to provide reasonable documentation to establish eligibility for a requested density bonus, incentives or concessions, as described in subdivision (d), waivers or reductions of development standards, as described in subdivision (e), and parking ratios, as described in subdivision (p).

(3) In order to provide for the expeditious processing of a density bonus application, the local government shall do all of the following:

(A) Adopt procedures and timelines for processing a density bonus application.

(B) Provide a list of all documents and information required to be submitted with the density bonus application in order for the density bonus application to be deemed complete. This list shall be consistent with this chapter.

(C) Notify the applicant for a density bonus whether the application is complete in a manner consistent with the timelines specified in Section 65943.

(D) (i) If the local government notifies the applicant that the application is deemed complete pursuant to subparagraph (C), provide the applicant with a determination as to the following matters:

(I) The amount of density bonus, calculated pursuant to subdivision (f), for which the applicant is eligible.

(II) If the applicant requests a parking ratio pursuant to subdivision (p), the parking ratio for which the applicant is eligible.

(III) If the applicant requests incentives or concessions pursuant to subdivision (d) or waivers or reductions of development standards pursuant to subdivision (e), whether the applicant has provided adequate information for the local government to make a determination as to those incentives, concessions, or waivers or reductions of development standards.

(ii) Any determination required by this subparagraph shall be based on the development project at the time the application is deemed complete. The local government shall adjust the amount of density bonus and parking ratios awarded pursuant to this section based on any changes to the project during the course of development.

(b) (1) A city, county, or city and county shall grant one density bonus, the amount of which shall be as specified in subdivision (f), and, if requested by the applicant and consistent with the applicable requirements of this section, incentives or concessions, as described in subdivision (d), waivers or reductions of development standards, as described in subdivision (e), and parking ratios, as described in subdivision (p), when an applicant for a housing development seeks and agrees to construct a housing development, excluding any units permitted by the density bonus awarded pursuant to this section, that will contain at least any one of the following:

(A) Ten percent of the total units of a housing development for lower income households, as defined in Section 50079.5 of the Health and Safety Code.

(B) Five percent of the total units of a housing development for very low income households, as defined in Section 50105 of the Health and Safety Code.

(C) A senior citizen housing development, as defined in Sections 51.3 and 51.12 of the Civil Code, or a mobilehome park that limits residency based on age requirements for housing for older persons pursuant to Section 798.76 or 799.5 of the Civil Code.

(D) Ten percent of the total dwelling units in a common interest development, as defined in Section 4100 of the Civil Code, for persons and families of moderate income, as defined in Section 50093 of the Health and Safety Code, provided that all units in the development are offered to the public for purchase.

(E) Ten percent of the total units of a housing development for transitional foster youth, as defined in Section 66025.9 of the Education Code, disabled veterans, as defined in Section 18541, or homeless persons, as defined in the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 11301 et seq.). The units described in this subparagraph shall be subject to a recorded affordability restriction of 55 years and shall be provided at the same affordability level as very low income units.

(F) (i) Twenty percent of the total units for lower income students in a student housing development that meets the following requirements:

(I) All units in the student housing development will be used exclusively for undergraduate, graduate, or professional students enrolled full time at an institution of higher education accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges or the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges. In order to be eligible under this subclause, the developer shall, as a condition of receiving a certificate of occupancy, provide evidence to the city, county, or city and county that the developer has entered into an operating agreement or master lease with one or more institutions of higher education for the institution or institutions to occupy all units of the student housing development with students from that institution or institutions. An operating agreement or master lease entered into pursuant to this subclause is not violated or breached if, in any subsequent year, there are not sufficient students enrolled in an institution of higher education to fill all units in the student housing development.

(II) The applicable 20-percent units will be used for lower income students. For purposes of this clause, “lower income students” means students who have a household income and asset level that does not exceed the level for Cal Grant A or Cal Grant B award recipients as set forth in paragraph (1) of subdivision (k) of Section 69432.7 of the Education Code. The eligibility of a student under this clause shall be verified by an affidavit, award letter, or letter of eligibility provided by the institution of higher education that the student is enrolled in, as described in subclause (I), or by the California Student Aid Commission that the student receives or is eligible for financial aid, including an institutional grant or fee waiver, from the college or university, the California Student Aid Commission, or the federal government shall be sufficient to satisfy this subclause.

(III) The rent provided in the applicable units of the development for lower income students shall be calculated at 30 percent of 65 percent of the area median income for a single-room occupancy unit type.

(IV) The development will provide priority for the applicable affordable units for lower income students experiencing homelessness. A homeless service provider, as defined in paragraph (3) of subdivision (d) of Section 103577 of the Health and Safety Code, or institution of higher education that has knowledge of a person's homeless status may verify a person's status as homeless for purposes of this subclause.

(ii) For purposes of calculating a density bonus granted pursuant to this subparagraph, the term "unit" as used in this section means one rental bed and its pro rata share of associated common area facilities. The units described in this subparagraph shall be subject to a recorded affordability restriction of 55 years.

(G) One hundred percent of the total units, exclusive of a manager's unit or units, are for lower income households, as defined by Section 50079.5 of the Health and Safety Code, except that up to 20 percent of the total units in the development may be for moderate-income households, as defined in Section 50053 of the Health and Safety Code.

(2) For purposes of calculating the amount of the density bonus pursuant to subdivision (f), an applicant who requests a density bonus pursuant to this subdivision shall elect whether the bonus shall be awarded on the basis of subparagraph (A), (B), (C), (D), (E), (F), or (G) of paragraph (1).

(3) For the purposes of this section, "total units," "total dwelling units," or "total rental beds" does not include units added by a density bonus awarded pursuant to this section or any local law granting a greater density bonus.

(c) (1) (A) An applicant shall agree to, and the city, county, or city and county shall ensure, the continued affordability of all very low and low-income rental units that qualified the applicant for the award of the density bonus for 55 years or a longer period of time if required by the construction or mortgage financing assistance program, mortgage insurance program, or rental subsidy program.

(B) (i) Except as otherwise provided in clause (ii), rents for the lower income density bonus units shall be set at an affordable rent, as defined in Section 50053 of the Health and Safety Code.

(ii) For housing developments meeting the criteria of subparagraph (G) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (b), rents for all units in the development, including both base density and density bonus units, shall be as follows:

(I) The rent for at least 20 percent of the units in the development shall be set at an affordable rent, as defined in Section 50053 of the Health and Safety Code.

(II) The rent for the remaining units in the development shall be set at an amount consistent with the maximum rent levels for a housing development that receives an allocation of state or federal low-income housing tax credits from the California Tax Credit Allocation Committee.

(2) An applicant shall agree to, and the city, county, or city and county shall ensure that, the initial occupant of all for-sale units that qualified the applicant for the award of the density bonus are persons and families of very low, low, or moderate income, as required, and that the units are offered at an affordable housing cost, as that cost is defined in Section 50052.5 of the Health and Safety Code. The local government shall enforce an equity sharing agreement, unless it is in conflict with the requirements of another public funding source or law. The following apply to the equity sharing agreement:

(A) Upon resale, the seller of the unit shall retain the value of any improvements, the downpayment, and the seller's proportionate share of appreciation. The local government shall recapture any initial subsidy, as defined in subparagraph (B), and its proportionate share of appreciation, as defined in subparagraph (C), which amount shall be used within five years for any of the purposes described in subdivision (e) of Section 33334.2 of the Health and Safety Code that promote home ownership.

(B) For purposes of this subdivision, the local government's initial subsidy shall be equal to the fair market value of the home at the time of initial sale minus the initial sale price to the moderate-income household, plus the amount of any downpayment assistance or mortgage assistance. If upon resale the market value is lower than the initial market value, then the value at the time of the resale shall be used as the initial market value.

(C) For purposes of this subdivision, the local government's proportionate share of appreciation shall be equal to the ratio of the local government's initial subsidy to the fair market value of the home at the time of initial sale.

(3) (A) An applicant shall be ineligible for a density bonus or any other incentives or concessions under this section if the housing development is proposed on any property that includes a parcel or parcels on which rental dwelling units are or, if the dwelling units have been vacated or demolished in the five-year period preceding the application, have been subject to a recorded covenant, ordinance, or law that restricts rents to levels affordable to persons and families of lower or very low income; subject to any other form of rent or price control through a public entity's valid exercise of its police power; or occupied by lower or very low income households, unless the proposed housing development replaces those units, and either of the following applies:

(i) The proposed housing development, inclusive of the units replaced pursuant to this paragraph, contains affordable units at the percentages set forth in subdivision (b).

(ii) Each unit in the development, exclusive of a manager's unit or units, is affordable to, and occupied by, either a lower or very low income household.

(B) For the purposes of this paragraph, "replace" shall mean either of the following:

(i) If any dwelling units described in subparagraph (A) are occupied on the date of application, the proposed housing development shall provide at least the same number of units of equivalent size to be made available at

affordable rent or affordable housing cost to, and occupied by, persons and families in the same or lower income category as those households in occupancy. If the income category of the household in occupancy is not known, it shall be rebuttably presumed that lower income renter households occupied these units in the same proportion of lower income renter households to all renter households within the jurisdiction, as determined by the most recently available data from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy database. For unoccupied dwelling units described in subparagraph (A) in a development with occupied units, the proposed housing development shall provide units of equivalent size to be made available at affordable rent or affordable housing cost to, and occupied by, persons and families in the same or lower income category as the last household in occupancy. If the income category of the last household in occupancy is not known, it shall be rebuttably presumed that lower income renter households occupied these units in the same proportion of lower income renter households to all renter households within the jurisdiction, as determined by the most recently available data from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy database. All replacement calculations resulting in fractional units shall be rounded up to the next whole number. If the replacement units will be rental dwelling units, these units shall be subject to a recorded affordability restriction for at least 55 years. If the proposed development is for-sale units, the units replaced shall be subject to paragraph (2).

(ii) If all dwelling units described in subparagraph (A) have been vacated or demolished within the five-year period preceding the application, the proposed housing development shall provide at least the same number of units of equivalent size as existed at the highpoint of those units in the five-year period preceding the application to be made available at affordable rent or affordable housing cost to, and occupied by, persons and families in the same or lower income category as those persons and families in occupancy at that time, if known. If the incomes of the persons and families in occupancy at the highpoint is not known, it shall be rebuttably presumed that low-income and very low income renter households occupied these units in the same proportion of low-income and very low income renter households to all renter households within the jurisdiction, as determined by the most recently available data from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy database. All replacement calculations resulting in fractional units shall be rounded up to the next whole number. If the replacement units will be rental dwelling units, these units shall be subject to a recorded affordability restriction for at least 55 years. If the proposed development is for-sale units, the units replaced shall be subject to paragraph (2).

(C) Notwithstanding subparagraph (B), for any dwelling unit described in subparagraph (A) that is or was, within the five-year period preceding the application, subject to a form of rent or price control through a local government's valid exercise of its police power and that is or was occupied

by persons or families above lower income, the city, county, or city and county may do either of the following:

(i) Require that the replacement units be made available at affordable rent or affordable housing cost to, and occupied by, low-income persons or families. If the replacement units will be rental dwelling units, these units shall be subject to a recorded affordability restriction for at least 55 years. If the proposed development is for-sale units, the units replaced shall be subject to paragraph (2).

(ii) Require that the units be replaced in compliance with the jurisdiction's rent or price control ordinance, provided that each unit described in subparagraph (A) is replaced. Unless otherwise required by the jurisdiction's rent or price control ordinance, these units shall not be subject to a recorded affordability restriction.

(D) For purposes of this paragraph, "equivalent size" means that the replacement units contain at least the same total number of bedrooms as the units being replaced.

(E) Subparagraph (A) does not apply to an applicant seeking a density bonus for a proposed housing development if the applicant's application was submitted to, or processed by, a city, county, or city and county before January 1, 2015.

(d) (1) An applicant for a density bonus pursuant to subdivision (b) may submit to a city, county, or city and county a proposal for the specific incentives or concessions that the applicant requests pursuant to this section, and may request a meeting with the city, county, or city and county. The city, county, or city and county shall grant the concession or incentive requested by the applicant unless the city, county, or city and county makes a written finding, based upon substantial evidence, of any of the following:

(A) The concession or incentive does not result in identifiable and actual cost reductions, consistent with subdivision (k), to provide for affordable housing costs, as defined in Section 50052.5 of the Health and Safety Code, or for rents for the targeted units to be set as specified in subdivision (c).

(B) The concession or incentive would have a specific, adverse impact, as defined in paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Section 65589.5, upon public health and safety or the physical environment or on any real property that is listed in the California Register of Historical Resources and for which there is no feasible method to satisfactorily mitigate or avoid the specific, adverse impact without rendering the development unaffordable to low-income and moderate-income households.

(C) The concession or incentive would be contrary to state or federal law.

(2) The applicant shall receive the following number of incentives or concessions:

(A) One incentive or concession for projects that include at least 10 percent of the total units for lower income households, at least 5 percent for very low income households, or at least 10 percent for persons and families of moderate income in a common interest development.

(B) Two incentives or concessions for projects that include at least 20 percent of the total units for lower income households, at least 10 percent for very low income households, or at least 20 percent for persons and families of moderate income in a common interest development.

(C) Three incentives or concessions for projects that include at least 30 percent of the total units for lower income households, at least 15 percent for very low income households, or at least 30 percent for persons and families of moderate income in a common interest development.

(D) Four incentives or concessions for projects meeting the criteria of subparagraph (G) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (b). If the project is located within one-half mile of a major transit stop, as defined in subdivision (b) of Section 21155 of the Public Resources Code, the applicant shall also receive a height increase of up to three additional stories, or 33 feet.

(3) The applicant may initiate judicial proceedings if the city, county, or city and county refuses to grant a requested density bonus, incentive, or concession. If a court finds that the refusal to grant a requested density bonus, incentive, or concession is in violation of this section, the court shall award the plaintiff reasonable attorney's fees and costs of suit. Nothing in this subdivision shall be interpreted to require a local government to grant an incentive or concession that has a specific, adverse impact, as defined in paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Section 65589.5, upon health, safety, or the physical environment, and for which there is no feasible method to satisfactorily mitigate or avoid the specific adverse impact. Nothing in this subdivision shall be interpreted to require a local government to grant an incentive or concession that would have an adverse impact on any real property that is listed in the California Register of Historical Resources. The city, county, or city and county shall establish procedures for carrying out this section that shall include legislative body approval of the means of compliance with this section.

(4) The city, county, or city and county shall bear the burden of proof for the denial of a requested concession or incentive.

(e) (1) In no case may a city, county, or city and county apply any development standard that will have the effect of physically precluding the construction of a development meeting the criteria of subdivision (b) at the densities or with the concessions or incentives permitted by this section. Subject to paragraph (3), an applicant may submit to a city, county, or city and county a proposal for the waiver or reduction of development standards that will have the effect of physically precluding the construction of a development meeting the criteria of subdivision (b) at the densities or with the concessions or incentives permitted under this section, and may request a meeting with the city, county, or city and county. If a court finds that the refusal to grant a waiver or reduction of development standards is in violation of this section, the court shall award the plaintiff reasonable attorney's fees and costs of suit. Nothing in this subdivision shall be interpreted to require a local government to waive or reduce development standards if the waiver or reduction would have a specific, adverse impact, as defined in paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Section 65589.5, upon health, safety, or the physical

environment, and for which there is no feasible method to satisfactorily mitigate or avoid the specific adverse impact. Nothing in this subdivision shall be interpreted to require a local government to waive or reduce development standards that would have an adverse impact on any real property that is listed in the California Register of Historical Resources, or to grant any waiver or reduction that would be contrary to state or federal law.

(2) A proposal for the waiver or reduction of development standards pursuant to this subdivision shall neither reduce nor increase the number of incentives or concessions to which the applicant is entitled pursuant to subdivision (d).

(3) A housing development that receives a waiver from any maximum controls on density pursuant to clause (ii) of subparagraph (D) of paragraph (3) of subdivision (f) shall not be eligible for, and shall not receive, a waiver or reduction of development standards pursuant to this subdivision, other than as expressly provided in subparagraph (D) of paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) and clause (ii) of subparagraph (D) of paragraph (3) of subdivision (f).

(f) For the purposes of this chapter, “density bonus” means a density increase over the otherwise maximum allowable gross residential density as of the date of application by the applicant to the city, county, or city and county, or, if elected by the applicant, a lesser percentage of density increase, including, but not limited to, no increase in density. The amount of density increase to which the applicant is entitled shall vary according to the amount by which the percentage of affordable housing units exceeds the percentage established in subdivision (b).

(1) For housing developments meeting the criteria of subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (b), the density bonus shall be calculated as follows:

Percentage Low-Income Units	Percentage Density Bonus
10	20
11	21.5
12	23
13	24.5
14	26
15	27.5
17	30.5
18	32
19	33.5
20	35

(2) For housing developments meeting the criteria of subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (b), the density bonus shall be calculated as follows:

Percentage Very Low Income Units	Percentage Density Bonus
5	20
6	22.5
7	25
8	27.5
9	30
10	32.5
11	35

(3) (A) For housing developments meeting the criteria of subparagraph (C) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (b), the density bonus shall be 20 percent of the number of senior housing units.

(B) For housing developments meeting the criteria of subparagraph (E) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (b), the density bonus shall be 20 percent of the number of the type of units giving rise to a density bonus under that subparagraph.

(C) For housing developments meeting the criteria of subparagraph (F) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (b), the density bonus shall be 35 percent of the student housing units.

(D) For housing developments meeting the criteria of subparagraph (G) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (b), the following shall apply:

(i) Except as otherwise provided in clause (ii), the density bonus shall be 80 percent of the number of units for lower income households.

(ii) If the housing development is located within one-half mile of a major transit stop, as defined in subdivision (b) of Section 21155 of the Public Resources Code, the city, county, or city and county shall not impose any maximum controls on density.

(4) For housing developments meeting the criteria of subparagraph (D) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (b), the density bonus shall be calculated as follows:

Percentage Moderate-Income Units	Percentage Density Bonus
10	5
11	6
12	7
13	8
14	9
15	10
16	11
17	12
18	13
19	14
20	15
21	16
22	17
23	18
24	19

25	20
26	21
27	22
28	23
29	24
30	25
31	26
32	27
33	28
34	29
35	30
36	31
37	32
38	33
39	34
40	35

(5) All density calculations resulting in fractional units shall be rounded up to the next whole number. The granting of a density bonus shall not require, or be interpreted, in and of itself, to require a general plan amendment, local coastal plan amendment, zoning change, or other discretionary approval.

(g) (1) When an applicant for a tentative subdivision map, parcel map, or other residential development approval donates land to a city, county, or city and county in accordance with this subdivision, the applicant shall be entitled to a 15-percent increase above the otherwise maximum allowable residential density for the entire development, as follows:

Percentage Very Low Income	Percentage Density Bonus
10	15
11	16
12	17
13	18
14	19
15	20
16	21
17	22
18	23
19	24
20	25
21	26
22	27
23	28
24	29
25	30
26	31
27	32

28	33
29	34
30	35

(2) This increase shall be in addition to any increase in density mandated by subdivision (b), up to a maximum combined mandated density increase of 35 percent if an applicant seeks an increase pursuant to both this subdivision and subdivision (b). All density calculations resulting in fractional units shall be rounded up to the next whole number. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to enlarge or diminish the authority of a city, county, or city and county to require a developer to donate land as a condition of development. An applicant shall be eligible for the increased density bonus described in this subdivision if all of the following conditions are met:

(A) The applicant donates and transfers the land no later than the date of approval of the final subdivision map, parcel map, or residential development application.

(B) The developable acreage and zoning classification of the land being transferred are sufficient to permit construction of units affordable to very low income households in an amount not less than 10 percent of the number of residential units of the proposed development.

(C) The transferred land is at least one acre in size or of sufficient size to permit development of at least 40 units, has the appropriate general plan designation, is appropriately zoned with appropriate development standards for development at the density described in paragraph (3) of subdivision (c) of Section 65583.2, and is or will be served by adequate public facilities and infrastructure.

(D) The transferred land shall have all of the permits and approvals, other than building permits, necessary for the development of the very low income housing units on the transferred land, not later than the date of approval of the final subdivision map, parcel map, or residential development application, except that the local government may subject the proposed development to subsequent design review to the extent authorized by subdivision (i) of Section 65583.2 if the design is not reviewed by the local government before the time of transfer.

(E) The transferred land and the affordable units shall be subject to a deed restriction ensuring continued affordability of the units consistent with paragraphs (1) and (2) of subdivision (c), which shall be recorded on the property at the time of the transfer.

(F) The land is transferred to the local agency or to a housing developer approved by the local agency. The local agency may require the applicant to identify and transfer the land to the developer.

(G) The transferred land shall be within the boundary of the proposed development or, if the local agency agrees, within one-quarter mile of the boundary of the proposed development.

(H) A proposed source of funding for the very low income units shall be identified not later than the date of approval of the final subdivision map, parcel map, or residential development application.

(h) (1) When an applicant proposes to construct a housing development that conforms to the requirements of subdivision (b) and includes a childcare facility that will be located on the premises of, as part of, or adjacent to, the project, the city, county, or city and county shall grant either of the following:

(A) An additional density bonus that is an amount of square feet of residential space that is equal to or greater than the amount of square feet in the childcare facility.

(B) An additional concession or incentive that contributes significantly to the economic feasibility of the construction of the childcare facility.

(2) The city, county, or city and county shall require, as a condition of approving the housing development, that the following occur:

(A) The childcare facility shall remain in operation for a period of time that is as long as or longer than the period of time during which the density bonus units are required to remain affordable pursuant to subdivision (c).

(B) Of the children who attend the childcare facility, the children of very low income households, lower income households, or families of moderate income shall equal a percentage that is equal to or greater than the percentage of dwelling units that are required for very low income households, lower income households, or families of moderate income pursuant to subdivision (b).

(3) Notwithstanding any requirement of this subdivision, a city, county, or city and county shall not be required to provide a density bonus or concession for a childcare facility if it finds, based upon substantial evidence, that the community has adequate childcare facilities.

(4) “Childcare facility,” as used in this section, means a child daycare facility other than a family daycare home, including, but not limited to, infant centers, preschools, extended daycare facilities, and schoolage childcare centers.

(i) “Housing development,” as used in this section, means a development project for five or more residential units, including mixed-use developments. For the purposes of this section, “housing development” also includes a subdivision or common interest development, as defined in Section 4100 of the Civil Code, approved by a city, county, or city and county and consists of residential units or unimproved residential lots and either a project to substantially rehabilitate and convert an existing commercial building to residential use or the substantial rehabilitation of an existing multifamily dwelling, as defined in subdivision (d) of Section 65863.4, where the result of the rehabilitation would be a net increase in available residential units. For the purpose of calculating a density bonus, the residential units shall be on contiguous sites that are the subject of one development application, but do not have to be based upon individual subdivision maps or parcels. The density bonus shall be permitted in geographic areas of the housing development other than the areas where the units for the lower income households are located.

(j) (1) The granting of a concession or incentive shall not require or be interpreted, in and of itself, to require a general plan amendment, local coastal plan amendment, zoning change, study, or other discretionary approval. For purposes of this subdivision, “study” does not include reasonable documentation to establish eligibility for the concession or incentive or to demonstrate that the incentive or concession meets the definition set forth in subdivision (k). This provision is declaratory of existing law.

(2) Except as provided in subdivisions (d) and (e), the granting of a density bonus shall not require or be interpreted to require the waiver of a local ordinance or provisions of a local ordinance unrelated to development standards.

(k) For the purposes of this chapter, concession or incentive means any of the following:

(1) A reduction in site development standards or a modification of zoning code requirements or architectural design requirements that exceed the minimum building standards approved by the California Building Standards Commission as provided in Part 2.5 (commencing with Section 18901) of Division 13 of the Health and Safety Code, including, but not limited to, a reduction in setback and square footage requirements and in the ratio of vehicular parking spaces that would otherwise be required that results in identifiable and actual cost reductions, to provide for affordable housing costs, as defined in Section 50052.5 of the Health and Safety Code, or for rents for the targeted units to be set as specified in subdivision (c).

(2) Approval of mixed-use zoning in conjunction with the housing project if commercial, office, industrial, or other land uses will reduce the cost of the housing development and if the commercial, office, industrial, or other land uses are compatible with the housing project and the existing or planned development in the area where the proposed housing project will be located.

(3) Other regulatory incentives or concessions proposed by the developer or the city, county, or city and county that result in identifiable and actual cost reductions to provide for affordable housing costs, as defined in Section 50052.5 of the Health and Safety Code, or for rents for the targeted units to be set as specified in subdivision (c).

(l) Subdivision (k) does not limit or require the provision of direct financial incentives for the housing development, including the provision of publicly owned land, by the city, county, or city and county, or the waiver of fees or dedication requirements.

(m) This section does not supersede or in any way alter or lessen the effect or application of the California Coastal Act of 1976 (Division 20 (commencing with Section 30000) of the Public Resources Code). Any density bonus, concessions, incentives, waivers or reductions of development standards, and parking ratios to which the applicant is entitled under this section shall be permitted in a manner that is consistent with this section and Division 20 (commencing with Section 30000) of the Public Resources Code.

(n) If permitted by local ordinance, nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a city, county, or city and county from granting a density bonus greater than what is described in this section for a development that meets the requirements of this section or from granting a proportionately lower density bonus than what is required by this section for developments that do not meet the requirements of this section.

(o) For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) “Development standard” includes a site or construction condition, including, but not limited to, a height limitation, a setback requirement, a floor area ratio, an onsite open-space requirement, or a parking ratio that applies to a residential development pursuant to any ordinance, general plan element, specific plan, charter, or other local condition, law, policy, resolution, or regulation.

(2) “Maximum allowable residential density” means the density allowed under the zoning ordinance and land use element of the general plan, or, if a range of density is permitted, means the maximum allowable density for the specific zoning range and land use element of the general plan applicable to the project. If the density allowed under the zoning ordinance is inconsistent with the density allowed under the land use element of the general plan, the general plan density shall prevail.

(p) (1) Except as provided in paragraphs (2), (3), and (4), upon the request of the developer, a city, county, or city and county shall not require a vehicular parking ratio, inclusive of handicapped and guest parking, of a development meeting the criteria of subdivisions (b) and (c), that exceeds the following ratios:

(A) Zero to one bedroom: one onsite parking space.

(B) Two to three bedrooms: two onsite parking spaces.

(C) Four and more bedrooms: two and one-half parking spaces.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), if a development includes the maximum percentage of low-income or very low income units provided for in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subdivision (f) and is located within one-half mile of a major transit stop, as defined in subdivision (b) of Section 21155 of the Public Resources Code, and there is unobstructed access to the major transit stop from the development, then, upon the request of the developer, a city, county, or city and county shall not impose a vehicular parking ratio, inclusive of handicapped and guest parking, that exceeds 0.5 spaces per bedroom. For purposes of this subdivision, a development shall have unobstructed access to a major transit stop if a resident is able to access the major transit stop without encountering natural or constructed impediments.

(3) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), if a development consists solely of rental units, exclusive of a manager’s unit or units, with an affordable housing cost to lower income families, as provided in Section 50052.5 of the Health and Safety Code, then, upon the request of the developer, a city, county, or city and county shall not impose a vehicular parking ratio, inclusive of handicapped and guest parking, that exceeds the following ratios:

(A) If the development is located within one-half mile of a major transit stop, as defined in subdivision (b) of Section 21155 of the Public Resources Code, and there is unobstructed access to the major transit stop from the development, the ratio shall not exceed 0.5 spaces per unit.

(B) If the development is a for-rent housing development for individuals who are 62 years of age or older that complies with Sections 51.2 and 51.3 of the Civil Code, the ratio shall not exceed 0.5 spaces per unit. The development shall have either paratransit service or unobstructed access, within one-half mile, to fixed bus route service that operates at least eight times per day.

(4) Notwithstanding paragraphs (1) and (8), if a development consists solely of rental units, exclusive of a manager's unit or units, with an affordable housing cost to lower income families, as provided in Section 50052.5 of the Health and Safety Code, and the development is either a special needs housing development, as defined in Section 51312 of the Health and Safety Code, or a supportive housing development, as defined in Section 50675.14 of the Health and Safety Code, then, upon the request of the developer, a city, county, or city and county shall not impose any minimum vehicular parking requirement. A development that is a special needs housing development shall have either paratransit service or unobstructed access, within one-half mile, to fixed bus route service that operates at least eight times per day.

(5) If the total number of parking spaces required for a development is other than a whole number, the number shall be rounded up to the next whole number. For purposes of this subdivision, a development may provide onsite parking through tandem parking or uncovered parking, but not through onstreet parking.

(6) This subdivision shall apply to a development that meets the requirements of subdivisions (b) and (c), but only at the request of the applicant. An applicant may request parking incentives or concessions beyond those provided in this subdivision pursuant to subdivision (d).

(7) This subdivision does not preclude a city, county, or city and county from reducing or eliminating a parking requirement for development projects of any type in any location.

(8) Notwithstanding paragraphs (2) and (3), if a city, county, city and county, or an independent consultant has conducted an areawide or jurisdictionwide parking study in the last seven years, then the city, county, or city and county may impose a higher vehicular parking ratio not to exceed the ratio described in paragraph (1), based upon substantial evidence found in the parking study, that includes, but is not limited to, an analysis of parking availability, differing levels of transit access, walkability access to transit services, the potential for shared parking, the effect of parking requirements on the cost of market-rate and subsidized developments, and the lower rates of car ownership for low-income and very low income individuals, including seniors and special needs individuals. The city, county, or city and county shall pay the costs of any new study. The city, county, or city and county

shall make findings, based on a parking study completed in conformity with this paragraph, supporting the need for the higher parking ratio.

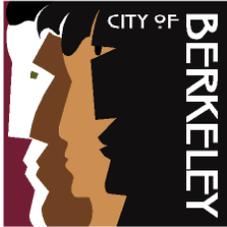
(9) A request pursuant to this subdivision shall neither reduce nor increase the number of incentives or concessions to which the applicant is entitled pursuant to subdivision (d).

(q) Each component of any density calculation, including base density and bonus density, resulting in fractional units shall be separately rounded up to the next whole number. The Legislature finds and declares that this provision is declaratory of existing law.

(r) This chapter shall be interpreted liberally in favor of producing the maximum number of total housing units.

SEC. 2. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because a local agency or school district has the authority to levy service charges, fees, or assessments sufficient to pay for the program or level of service mandated by this act, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code.

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Kate Harrison  
Councilmember District 4

ACTION CALENDAR  
July 28, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Councilmember Kate Harrison  
Subject: Amendments to Berkeley Municipal Code 23C.22: Short Term Rentals

RECOMMENDATION

Amend Berkeley Municipal Code 23C.22: Short Term Rentals to clarify the ordinance and insure adequate host responsibilities, tenant protections and remedies for violating the ordinance.

BACKGROUND

Berkeley has had regulations on short term rentals (STRs) since 2017, allowing STRs in most residential and commercial zones, as long as the host pays the transient occupancy tax and the unit being rented fits particular criteria (no Below Market Rate unit may be a short term rental, no unit may be a short term rental if it has had a No Fault Eviction in the past five years, etc). The City of Santa Monica also has an ordinance regulating STRs that places the regulatory burden on the *host platform* (i.e., AirBnB or other corporate host platforms) rather than the individual renting out their unit. Santa Monica placed four obligations on the host platform: collecting and remitting transient occupancy taxes, regularly disclosing listings and booking information to the City, refraining from booking properties not licensed by the City, and refraining from collecting fees for ancillary services.<sup>1</sup> The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the legality in the case of *Homeaway.com v. Santa Monica*, thus confirming the rights of Cities to regulate short term rental host platforms.

The proposed amendments update the City of Berkeley's STR regulations to more closely align with Santa Monica's ordinance, as well as other amendments intended to ensure that the short term rentals in Berkeley serve the needs of the City. The primary five changes are as follows:

**1) Regulatory burden shifted to the Host Platform**

We clarify the definition of a hosting platform in 23C.22.030.H (page 2) as a marketplace that derives revenue from maintaining said short term rental marketplace. Regulating the host platform consolidates regulation and ensures that the transient

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<sup>1</sup> *Homeaway.com v Santa Monica*. United State Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. No. 18-55367.

occupancy tax owned to the City gets paid. Recommended changes to 23C.22.050.H and I (page 5) state that if a hosting platform is utilized to book a short term rental, both it and the individual host are legally responsible and are jointly liable for remitting the transient occupancy tax. New section 23C.22.050.I (pages 5-6) also outlines new duties of the hosting platform, including a regular disclosure of short term rental listings in the City as well as their address, length of stay, and listed prices. In addition, the hosting platform is responsible for ensuring that all short term rentals are appropriately licensed with a Zoning Certificate and adds the requirements that STRs must list the Zoning Certificate on any STR advertisements. The new regulations also include a safe harbor clause, making clear that hosting platforms that disclose listings, regularly remit the transient occupancy tax, and ensure the listing has a Zoning Certificate will be presumed to be in compliance with the chapter.

## **2) Hosts can have only one residence**

Individual people have the right to rent out their homes on a short term basis, but in a housing crisis, it is in the best interest of the City to ensure that no one has extra units for STRs when they could house someone long term instead. To that end, 23C.22.030.F and 23C.22.030.I (pages 2-3) clarify that hosts may not have more than one principle place of residency, which may include accessory buildings or ADUs.

## **3) Short term rentals limited to single ADUs, single Accessory Buildings or Golden Duplexes not rented for the past ten years**

The current ordinance limits use of Accessory Buildings or Accessory Dwelling Units to those that have not been rented for ten years. Additions to Section 23C.22.020.D (page 1) expand that prohibition to include more than one Accessory Building or ADU on a property and prohibits short term rentals in Golden Duplexes if those units have been rented in the last ten years. Unpermitted use of these units would be investigated by the Rent Stabilization Board under Section 23C.22.060.I (page 7).

## **4) Closing 14/30 day loophole**

Under current law, any rental over 14 days is not a short term rental and thus does not require paying a transient occupancy tax. Any rental that is shorter than 30 days is not a long term rental and thus rent control and other rental protections are awarded to the tenant. As it now stands there are instances of regularly renting a unit for a period of time between 14 days and fewer than 30 days, thus circumventing standard regulations. 23C.22.030.N (page 3) and 23C.22.040 (page 4) close this loophole by disallowing rentals between 14 and 30 days, and stating that no Zoning Certificate or advertisement for a short term rental may be permitted for rentals longer than 14 days.

## **5) Remedies**

New language under 23C.22.060E and 23C.22.060.J (page 7) clarify that in the case of a private right of action the prevailing party is entitled to recover reasonable costs and attorney's fees, thus making private right of action more financially feasible. The new

Resolution in Support of Senate Bill 54 and Assembly Bill 1080:  
The California Circular Economy and Plastic Pollution Reduction Act

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language also gives the City the right to issue administrative subpoenas to determine whether short term rentals are in compliance with the chapter. Both of these edits are intended to encourage enforcement and compliance.

Finally, the ordinance clarifies the definitions of the terms Accessory Building, Accessory Dwelling Unit, and the Transient Occupancy Tax and defines a Golden Duplex and other clarifying language.

CONTACT PERSON

Kate Harrison, Berkeley City Councilmember, (510) 981-7140

ATTACHMENTS

Ordinance

## 100Chapter 23C.22 Short-Term Rentals

### 23C.22.010 Purposes

The purposes of the Short-Term Rentals related regulations contained in this Chapter are:

- A. To prevent long-term rental units from being replaced with Short-Term Rentals and protect affordable housing units from conversion.
- B. To preserve and protect neighborhood character and livability from nuisances that are often associated with Short-Term Rentals.
- C. To generate City revenue to share City infrastructure cost and other public expenditures by operation of Short-Term Rentals under established standards.
- D. To provide alternative forms of lodging. (Ord. 7521-NS § 1 (part), 2017)

### 23C.22.020 Applicability

- A. Short-Term Rentals shall be allowed in residential uses in the following zoning districts: R-1, R-1A, R-2, R-2A, R-3, R-4, R-5, R-S, R-SMU, C-DMU, C-1, C-NS, C-SA, C-T, C-W, and MU-R.
- B. Short-Term Rentals shall be prohibited in below market rate (BMR) units. BMR units for Short-Term Rental purposes refer to Dwelling Units whose rents are listed as a result of deed restrictions or agreements with public agencies, and whose tenants must be income-qualified.
- C. A property containing a Dwelling Unit protected by a No-Fault Eviction cannot operate Short-Term Rentals for five years from eviction unless it is a single-family home that has been vacated for purposes of Owner Occupancy in compliance with the Rent Stabilization Ordinance.
- D. Short-Term Rentals are only allowed in a single, Accessory Building and in single existing Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), or a Golden Duplex unless such ADUs are or have within the last 10 (ten) years preceding the effective date of this ordinance been used for long term rentals, as defined by the requirements of the Rent Stabilization Ordinance. Short-Term Rentals shall not be allowed in Accessory Dwelling Units permitted after the date this Ordinance first became effective. (Ord. 7521-NS § 1 (part), 2017)

### 23C.22.030 Definitions

The definitions set forth in this Section shall govern the meaning of the following terms as used in this Chapter:

A. Accessory Building: A detached building containing habitable space, excluding a kitchen, which is smaller in size than the main building on the same lot, and the use of which is incidental to the primary use of the lot.

B. Accessory Dwelling Unit: A secondary dwelling unit that is located on a lot which is occupied by one legally established Single-Family Dwelling that conforms to the standards of Section 23C.24. An Accessory Dwelling Unit must comply with local building, housing, safety and other code requirements and provide the following features independent of the Single-Family Dwelling: 1) exterior access to Accessory Dwelling Unit; 2) living and sleeping quarters; 3) a full kitchen; and 4) a full bathroom. An Accessory Dwelling Unit also includes an efficiency unit and a manufactured home, as defined in the Health and Safety Code.

C. "Adjacent Properties" mean the Dwelling Units abutting and confronting, as well as above and below, a Dwelling Unit within which a Short-Term Rental is located.

D. "Dwelling Unit" means a building or portion of a building designed for, or occupied exclusively by, persons living as one (1) household.

E. "Golden Duplex" means an owner-occupied duplex that is exempt from rent control and eviction protection, so long as it was occupied by the owner on December 31, 1979 and is currently occupied by the owner.

F. "Host" means any Owner and is used interchangeably in this Title with Owner Host. An Owner Host is a person who is the owner of record of residential real property, as documented by a deed or other such evidence of ownership, who offers his or her Host Residence, or a portion thereof, as a Short-Term Rental. For purposes of offering a Short-Term Rental, an Owner Host may not have more than one "Host Residence" in the City of Berkeley, excluding an Accessory Building or an Accessory Dwelling Unit on the same residential real property. A Tenant Host is a lessee of residential real property, as documented by a lease or other such evidence, who offers their Host Residence, or portion thereof, as a Short-Term Rental.

G. "Host Present" or "Host Presence" means the Host is living in the Host Residence during the Short-Term Rental period. In the case of a parcel comprised of a Single Family Dwelling and one or more authorized Accessory Dwelling Units and/or Accessory Buildings, the Host is considered Present if he or she is present in any Dwelling Unit on such property during the Short Term Rental period.

H. "Hosting Platform" means a business or person that provides a marketplace through which an Owner Host may offer a Dwelling Unit for Short-Term Rentals. A Hosting Platform is usually, though not necessarily, provided through an internet-based platform. It generally allows a Dwelling Unit to be advertised through a website provided by the Hosting Platform and provides a means for potential Short-Term Rental Transients to arrange and pay for Short-Term Rentals, and from which operator of the Hosting Platform derives revenue, including booking fees or advertising revenues, from providing or maintaining the marketplace.

L. "Host Residence" means a Host's principal place of residence as defined by whether the Host carries on basic living activities at the place of residence, and whether the place of residence is the Host's usual place of return. Motor vehicle registration, driver's license, voter registration or other evidence as may be required by the City shall be indicia of principal residency. A Host may have only one place of principal residency in the City and if that principal place of residency contains more than one dwelling unit, the principal place of residency shall be only one such dwelling unit.

J. "Host Responsibilities" means the requirements that a "Host" is obligated to comply with as set forth in this Ordinance.

K. "Local Contact" means a person designated by the Host who shall be available during the term of any Short-Term Rental for the purpose of (i) responding within sixty minutes to complaints regarding the condition or operation of the Dwelling Unit or portion thereof used for Short-Term Rental, or the conduct of Short-Term Rental Transients; and (ii) taking appropriate remedial action on behalf of the Host, up to and including termination of the Short Term Rental, if allowed by and pursuant to the Short Term Rental agreement, to resolve such complaints.

L. "No Fault Eviction" means an eviction pursuant to the Ellis Act or Sections 13.76.130.A.9 or 10 of the Berkeley Municipal Code.

M. "Short-Term Rental" or "STR" means the use of any Dwelling Unit, authorized Accessory Dwelling Unit or Accessory Building, or portions thereof for dwelling, sleeping or lodging purposes by Short-Term Rental Transients. Short-Term Rental shall be an accessory use to a residential use and be considered neither a Tourist Hotel nor a Residential Hotel for purposes of this Title.

N. Short Term Rentals are allowed for 14 or fewer consecutive days. Any rental for more than 14 consecutive days is not permitted as a Short Term Rental, and any rental for more than 14 consecutive days and less than 30 consecutive days is not permitted in the City of Berkeley.

O. "Short-Term Rental Transient" or "STR Transient" means any person who rents a Dwelling Unit, authorized Accessory Dwelling Unit or Accessory Building, or portion thereof, [for 14 or fewer consecutive days](#).

P. ["Transient Occupancy Tax" or "TOT" means local transient tax as set forth in Berkeley Municipal Code Section 7.36. The tax is paid by the Short-Term Rental Transient at the time payment is made for the Short-Term Rental. The TOT is then remitted to the City.](#)

### **23C.22.040 Permit And License Required**

Short Term Rentals are permitted only in the Host Residence. A Zoning Certificate [and a Business License](#) for a Short-Term Rental shall be required for each Host to operate a Short-Term Rental. [A Host must provide the Uniform Resource Locator \(URL\) — specifically, the website address — for any and all advertisements for the STR, if applicable, on the Zoning Certificate application.](#)

[No Zoning Certificate may be issued to allow for a Short-Term Rental of more than 14 consecutive days, and no advertisement for a Short Term Rental of more than 14 consecutive days is allowed.](#)

### **23C.22.050 Operating Standards and Requirements**

A Short-Term Rental is allowed only if it conforms to each of the operating standards and requirements set forth in this Section, [and the Host complies with all Host Responsibilities set forth in this Ordinance.](#)

#### A. Proof of Host Residency.

1. An Owner-Host of a Short-Term Rental must provide documentation of Owner Host and Host Residence status and, if applicable, Host Presence, as defined [above](#).

2. A Tenant-Host must provide documentation of lessee status, Host Residence and Host Presence, if applicable, as defined in subdivisions C, E, and B of Section [23C.22.030](#). In addition, a Tenant-Host must present written authorization allowing for a Short-Term Rental in the Host Residence from the building owner or authorized agent of the owner.

#### B. STR Duration and Required Residency Timeframes

1. When the Host is Present, the unit, or a portion thereof, may be rented as a Short-Term Rental for an unlimited number of days during the calendar year.

2. When the Host is not Present, the number of days that the unit can be used for Short-Term Rental purposes shall be limited to 90 days per calendar year.

C. Number of Occupants. The maximum number of Short-Term Rental Transients allowed for a Short-Term Rental unit shall be as provided for in the Berkeley Housing Code (BMC Chapter [19.40](#)).

D. Notification.

(i) Initial, one-time notification of the establishment of a Short-Term Rental by [Zoning Certificate](#) and Business license, shall be provided to the residents of all Adjacent Properties. Notification shall include Host and Local Contact information. Additional notification shall be required within a week of updated Host [or Local Contact information](#).

(ii) In any advertisement for the STR, a Host must include the [Zoning Certificate number](#).

E. Enforcement Fee. For the initial enforcement period, while enforcement costs are being determined, the Host shall pay an additional enforcement fee in an amount equal to 2% of the rents charged by that Host, not to exceed the cost of the regulatory program established by this Chapter over time. Such fees may be paid by the Hosting Platform on behalf of the Host. After the initial enforcement period, the Council may revise the enforcement fee by resolution.

F. Liability Insurance. Liability insurance is required of the Host, or Hosting Platform on behalf of the Host, in the amount of at least \$1,000,000.

G. Documents Provided to STR Transients. Electronic or paper copies of the Community Noise Ordinance and Smoke-Free Multi-Unit Housing Ordinance must be provided to STR Transients upon booking and upon arrival.

H. Transient Occupancy Tax. (“TOT”). The TOT shall be collected on all Short-Term Rentals. The Host is responsible for collecting and remitting the TOT, in coordination with any Hosting Platform, if utilized, to the City. If a Hosting Platform collects payment for rentals, then both it and the Host shall have legal responsibility for collection and remittance of the TOT.

I. Housing Platform Responsibilities.

(i) Subject to applicable laws, A Hosting Platform shall disclose to the City on a regular basis each rental listing located in the City, the names of the person or persons responsible for each such listing, the address of each such listing, the length of stay for each such listing, and the price paid for each booking transaction.

(ii) A Hosting Platform shall not complete any booking transaction for any STR unless the Host has a valid Zoning Certificate at the time the Hosting Platform receives a fee the booking transaction.

(iii) A Hosting Platform shall not collect or receive a fee for a STR unless the Host has a valid Zoning Certificate at the time the Hosting Platform would otherwise be entitled to receive a fee for the booking transaction.

(iv) Safe Harbor: A Hosting Platform operating exclusively on the internet, which operates in compliance with subsections (i), (ii) and (iii) above, shall be presumed to be in compliance with this Chapter.

J. Housing Code Compliance. Any building or portion thereof used for Short-Term Rentals shall comply with the requirements of the Berkeley Housing Code (BMC Chapter [19.40](#)).

K. Payment of Additional Taxes: The Host shall pay all City taxes and fees owed, in addition to the TOT, if applicable, in a timely manner. [100](#)

L. The Host shall be responsible for listing on any rental ad the Zoning Certificate number. The Host shall also provide both the Business License number, if required pursuant to Chapter [9.04](#), and Zoning Certificate for the STR to the City and/or a vendor hired by the City to administer this Chapter, upon request.

### **23C.22.060 Remedies**

A. Compliance with Second-Response Ordinance. The Host shall comply with the Second Response Ordinance (BMC Chapter [13.48](#)). The Host shall be prohibited from operating Short-Term Rentals for one year upon issuance of a third violation affidavit.

B. Violation of any provision of this Chapter is punishable as set forth in Chapters [1.20](#) and [1.28](#).

C. Violation of any provision of this Chapter is hereby declared to be a public nuisance subject to abatement under Chapters [1.24](#), [1.26](#) and [23B.64](#).

D. In any enforcement action by the City, the prevailing party shall be entitled to recover reasonable attorneys' fees and costs; provided that, pursuant to Government Code Section [38773.5](#), attorneys' fees shall only be available in an action or proceeding in which the City has elected, at the commencement of such action or proceeding, to seek recovery of its own attorneys' fees. In no action or proceeding shall an award of

attorneys' fees to a prevailing party exceed the amount of reasonable attorneys' fees incurred by the City in the action or proceeding.

E. Any resident of the City may bring a private action for injunctive or other relief to prevent or remedy a public nuisance as defined in this Chapter, or to prevent or remedy any other violation of this Chapter. No action may be brought under this subdivision unless and until the prospective plaintiff has given the City and the prospective defendant(s) at least 30 days written notice of the alleged public nuisance and the City has failed to initiate proceedings within that period, or after initiation, has failed to diligently prosecute. The prevailing party in any such action shall be entitled to recover reasonable costs and attorney's fees.

F. Any occurrence at a Short-Term Rental unit that constitutes a substantial disturbance of the quiet enjoyment of private or public property in a significant segment of a neighborhood, such as excessive noise or traffic, obstruction of public streets by crowds or vehicles, public intoxication, the service to or consumption of alcohol by minors, fights, disturbances of the peace, litter or other similar conditions, constitutes a public nuisance.

G. It shall be a public nuisance for any STR Transient of a Short-Term Rental unit where an event is taking place to refuse access to, or interfere with access by, Fire Department or other City personnel responding to an emergency call or investigating a situation.

H. Notwithstanding any provision of Chapter [13.48](#) to the contrary, a public nuisance as defined in this Section shall be subject to remedies set forth in Section [23C.22.060](#). (Ord. 7521-NS § 1 (part), 2017)

I. A violation of this Chapter by a Host Owner who offers or rents a rent controlled unit, multiple ADU's, multiple Accessory Buildings, or a Golden Duplex, may be reported to the Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board for investigation by the Board. Upon report of a violation to the Rent Stabilization Board, the Board is required to provide a written report of the investigation within 30 days. Where a violation is found, the Rent Board will immediately provide the written report supporting its finding of a violation to the City Attorney's office for remedial action by the City.

J. The City may issue and serve administrative subpoenas as necessary to obtain specific information regarding Short-Term Rentals located in the City, including but not limited to, the names of the persons responsible for each such listing, the address of each such listing, the length of stay for each such listing and the price paid for each stay, to determine whether the STR and related listing complies with this Chapter. Any subpoena issued pursuant to this section shall not require the production of information sooner than 30 days

from the date of service. A person or entity that has been served with an administrative subpoena may seek judicial review during that 30 day period.





Rashi Kesarwani  
Councilmember District 1

CONSENT CALENDAR  
May 11, 2021

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Councilmember Rashi Kesarwani (Author), Councilmember Wengraf (Co-Sponsor), Councilmember Droste (Co-Sponsor), and Councilmember Bartlett (Co-Sponsor)

SUBJECT: Referral to the City Manager to Streamline Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Permit Review and Approval

RECOMMENDATION

Refer to the City Manager to streamline the Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) permitting process in order to reduce staff time spent on review and enhance customer service. Further, assess effectiveness of process improvements specified below by reviewing over time: the number of ADUs permitted, average amount of staff time spent on ADU permit review, and permit fee levels.

Recommend that the City Manager develop for Planning staff use an ADU Universal Checklist and accompanying user-friendly webpage:

- **ADU Universal Checklist.** A clear set of universal guidelines and construction requirements should be developed among staff from Planning (both Land Use and Building and Safety Divisions), Fire, and Public Works Departments that is easy to follow in order to eliminate (or significantly reduce) the need for multiple departments to review ADU permit applications and for multiple rounds of review by the same department. The Universal Checklist should be a single document utilized by all City staff to review ADU permit applications and by customers to understand code requirements. The Universal Checklist should enable all City staff and customers to have the same clear understanding of all of the requirements that, if adhered to, would expedite the permitting process and lead to lower permit fees over time.
- **Accompanying User-Friendly Webpage.** As a companion to the ADU Universal Checklist, the City should also create a user-friendly webpage for customers (and prospective customers) with up-to-date information that provides clarity and greater certainty about the process and expected timeline

for the creation of an ADU or Junior ADU, which is within a main dwelling unit. At a minimum, the webpage should include:

- A list of relevant fees and expected payment amounts for permits, inspections, and other requirements;
- Plan requirements, worksheets, and projected timelines for each step of the process; and
- Consolidated up-to-date state and local regulations that are easy to understand.

Recommend that the City Manager consider adoption of the following two best practices:

- **Pre-Approved ADU Design Plans.** Consider development of (1) free ADU designs available to download--of varying sizes and styles--that already conform to all City and state requirements and safety codes; and/or (2) a list of vendors with architectural designs and construction drawings that have already been approved by the City and are available to customers for a nominal fee to the architect.
- **ADU Ally.** Consider dedicating existing Planning staff member(s) time to the role of an "ADU Ally." The ADU Ally is a customer-facing staff person(s) who is an expert on all current state and local ADU regulations and acts as an ally to customers through the planning and building process.

#### CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

*The City's Process for Reviewing ADU Plans Is Not Efficient.* Today, builders and homeowners report that building an ADU in Berkeley is costly, cumbersome, and frustrating. ADU plans submitted by applicants to the City's Permit Service Center are routed to multiple departments for review--a time-consuming process that requires review from multiple plan examiners. Further, the ADU plans are put in the same queue as other larger building projects, creating substantial wait times for approval. Relatedly, there is currently no user-friendly City webpage to alert customers about the process, fees, and requirements for obtaining an ADU permit, making it difficult for prospective customers to understand whether they are eligible to create an ADU and how to embark on the process. Such a webpage could alert residents that the state has eliminated minimum lot size requirements for ADUs, for example, which could encourage more homeowners to consider building an ADU.

*Inefficiency Leads to High Permit Fees.* Currently, the City of Berkeley permitting fees are estimated at a flat rate (3-5 percent) of the job valuation.<sup>1</sup> Spending less

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<sup>1</sup> See the City of Berkeley's Department of Planning and Development's Building Permit Fee estimator: <https://www.cityofberkeley.info/PermitFeeEstimator.aspx>

staff time on permit reviews will result in lower fees over time. Construction costs in California are high and building an average-sized detached ADU typically runs upwards of \$150,000. By creating greater certainty and a more streamlined process, customers will be better able to plan for financing their ADU.

*Recent State Law Changes Have Made It Easier to Create ADUs.* Recent changes to state law have made it easier for more homeowners to pursue ADU development, such as:

- ADUs are now required to be approved and permitted ministerially (AB 68, 2019)
- Elimination of minimum lot sizes for ADU development (AB 68, 2019)
- Exemption of ADU parking requirements under certain circumstances (SB 13, 2019)<sup>2</sup>

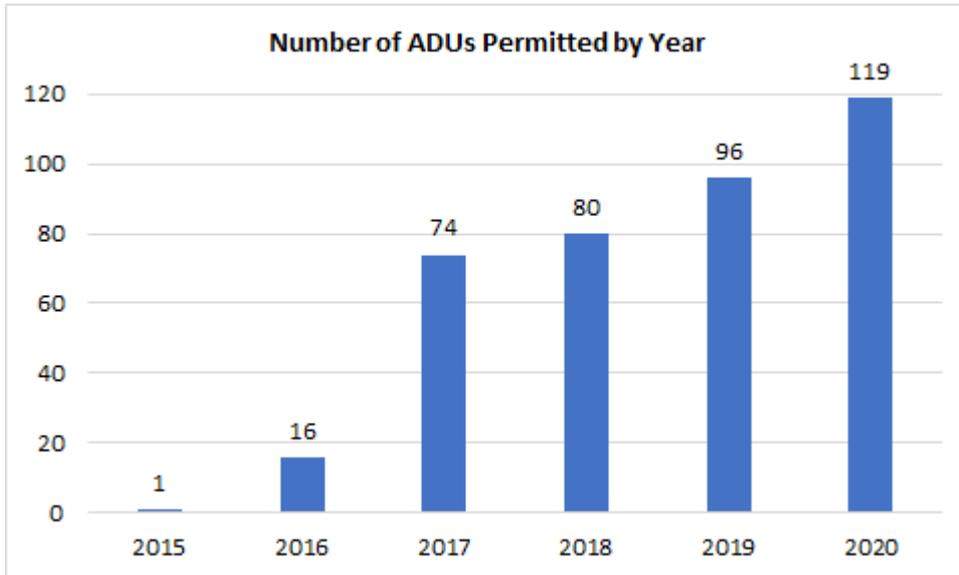
*Best Practices From Other Local Jurisdictions Can Help to Increase ADU Production in Berkeley.* Cities throughout the state are meeting an increasing demand among homeowners for ADUs by: revising their local ADU ordinance and simplifying zoning requirements, offering customer-friendly services, and streamlining the permit approval process. Taken together, these actions have shortened processing time, increased consistency, and reduced homeowner expenses. In Berkeley, interest in creating an ADU is growing: a total of 119 permits were approved for the construction of ADUs in 2020, a number that has steadily grown over the last five years, as shown in Exhibit 1. However, to date, the City of Berkeley has not implemented ADU best practices related to customer-friendly services and streamlining the permit approval process, meaning that more could be done to increase the number of ADU permits issued annually. We note that Berkeley is currently in the process of amending its ADU ordinance to comply with new state law changes, particularly with regards to emergency access and egress; installation of sprinklers; parking concerns in fire zones; maximum size of ADUs; as well as consideration of front yard setbacks, open space, and lot coverage.<sup>3</sup>

### **Exhibit 1: Number of ADUs Permitted in the City of Berkeley Has Steadily Grown**

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<sup>2</sup> For a complete discussion of statutory changes to California's ADU codes see the Department of Housing and Community Development's ADU Handbook, p. 23: [https://www.hcd.ca.gov/policy-research/docs/adu\\_december\\_2020\\_handbook.pdf](https://www.hcd.ca.gov/policy-research/docs/adu_december_2020_handbook.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> See "Response to Short Term Referral for Amendments to the Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU) Ordinance and Related Definitions to Address Public Safety Concerns," Planning Commission Agenda Packet, April 7, 2021, [https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Planning\\_and\\_Development/Level\\_3\\_-\\_Commissions/Commission\\_for\\_Planning/2021-04-07%20PC\\_Item%209.pdf](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Planning_and_Development/Level_3_-_Commissions/Commission_for_Planning/2021-04-07%20PC_Item%209.pdf)



Source: “Response to Short Term Referral for Amendments to the Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU) Ordinance and Related Definitions to Address Public Safety Concerns,” Planning Commission Agenda Packet, April 7, 2020,

[https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Planning\\_and\\_Development/Level\\_3\\_-\\_Commissions/Commission\\_for\\_Planning/2021-04-07%20PC\\_Item%209.pdf](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Planning_and_Development/Level_3_-_Commissions/Commission_for_Planning/2021-04-07%20PC_Item%209.pdf).

### *Three Best Practices From Other Jurisdictions Recommended for Berkeley*

- **ADU Universal Checklist and Accompanying User-Friendly Webpage.**

The City of San Jose has become well known for its adoption of an ADU Universal Checklist (see attached) that reduces the amount of time that City staff spend reviewing ADU permits and answering customer questions. Prior to the creation of San Jose’s Universal Checklist two years ago, ADU customers were required to work with four different departments (Building Development, Planning, Fire, and Public Works) to know the requirements and get their ADU permits approved--similar to the situation in Berkeley today. The Universal Checklist now provides a one-stop shop that lists all the requirements across all four City departments. This tool gives homeowners and builders clear guidance on what is required and simplifies the plan check process. The initial effort to establish the Universal Checklist took three to four months of weekly meetings among staff from the four relevant departments, according to the San Jose Public Information Manager for the Department of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement Division. However, now that the Universal Checklist is in place, those same staff have more available time to devote to other projects, according to the Public Information Manager. San Jose began utilizing the Universal Checklist in early 2019 shortly before some changes to state ADU laws (such as AB 68) went into effect; that year saw a notable jump in annual applications to build ADUs--from 376 permit applications in 2018 to nearly double in 2019 at 688 permit applications, which

the Public Information Manager attributes to changes in state law, streamlined permitting, and marketing both of these changes.<sup>4</sup>

The marketing and advertising of these changes were facilitated by a user-friendly webpage that includes links to additional webpages with full descriptions of:

- The ADU Universal Checklist
- ADU plan review and permit process
- Pre-approved ADUs and lists of vendors
- Fees for ADUs
- ADU fire requirements
- Parking requirements and exemptions
- State and local ADU ordinances and updates<sup>5</sup>

The ADU Universal Checklist and accompanying user-friendly webpage are simple tools that could help all parties to be clear about the requirements for receiving an ADU permit. There is also precedent for using customer-friendly checklists, as the City of Berkeley already has many examples listed on its website, as shown in Exhibit 2.

**Exhibit 2: Building Checklists Currently Available from Online Service Center**

Type of Checklist	Use
Code Compliance Checklists	Kitchens; Building Permits Submittals; Bathroom and Laundry; Decks, Porches, Stairs; Electric Vehicle Charging; Reach code low-rise residential; Reach code non-residential high rise and hotel/motel; Residential floor plan; Solar Photovoltaic; Windows and Doors
Energy Conservation Checklists	CalGreen residential; CalGreen non-residential
Stormwater Requirements Checklists	C.3 and C.6 projects; C.3.i projects
Land Use Planning Checklist	Landmark Alterations Submittal Checklists

Source: Online Service Center webpage, City of Berkeley website, [https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Online\\_Service\\_Center/Home/Forms.aspx](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Online_Service_Center/Home/Forms.aspx).

<sup>4</sup> E-mail communication with Cheryl Wessling, San Jose’s Public Information Manager, Department of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement Division, April 14, 2021.

<sup>5</sup> See City of San Jose’s Department of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement ADU webpage: <https://www.sanjoseca.gov/business/development-services-permit-center/accessory-dwelling-units-adus>

- **Pre-Approved ADU Design Plans.** Numerous jurisdictions have developed ADU design plans that are pre-approved by the jurisdiction’s Planning and Building Departments, ranging from conceptual drawings to full sets of building plans, which greatly reduces the amount of staff time required to approve planning and building permits. This approach streamlines the process for issuing a permit, which reduces design costs for the customer, reduces staff time for City Departments, and increases consistency among all the approved permits. San Diego County<sup>6</sup> and the City of Encinitas<sup>7</sup>, for example, both offer a set number of optional pre-approved ADU designs (free and available for download) of varying sizes and styles that can eliminate fees for hiring an architect and streamline some of the permitting processes. San Jose utilizes a slightly different model, in which it offers a list of vendors with pre-approved full sets of construction drawings that homeowners may use for a small fee to the architect. The primary benefit of pre-approved ADU design plans is that City staff only need to evaluate the site-specific elements to approve the building permit, leading to a more efficient review and lower permit fees for the customer.<sup>8</sup>
- **ADU Ally.** The cities of Encinitas and San Jose both have dedicated staff whose sole responsibilities concern ADU development, providing staff responses to permitting requests and knowledgeable assistance steeped in state and local regulations.

## BACKGROUND

*As Home Prices Climb, ADUs are a Form of “Naturally Occurring” More Affordable Housing.* Home prices continue to climb across the Bay Area, and Berkeley now ranks as the third most expensive large Bay Area city, with an average home price of \$1.45 million, as shown in Exhibit 3. The state of California has the third highest median home price in the country, after Hawaii and Washington, D.C.<sup>9</sup> ADUs and Junior ADUs (within the main dwelling) are currently the only avenues available to increase the number of units in many residential zones. ADUs, also known as backyard cottages, have been found to be a form of “naturally occurring” more

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<sup>6</sup> See San Diego County’s Accessory Dwelling Units webpage:

<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/pds/bldg/adu.html.html>

<sup>7</sup> See City of Encinitas’ Permit Ready ADU (PRADU) webpage: <https://encinitasca.gov/pradu>

<sup>8</sup> See City of San Jose’s Pre-approved ADU webpage:

<https://www.sanjoseca.gov/business/development-services-permit-center/accessory-dwelling-units-adus/adu-permit-plan-review-process/adu-single-family-master-plan-program>. It should be noted that residents need to seek out the vendors and the designs are not free. San Jose also offers a process through which vendors can get their designs approved by the City and thus be added to the binder of pre-approved vendor designs.

<sup>9</sup> Experian, *Median Home Values by State*, Nov. 19, 2019, <https://www.experian.com/blogs/ask-experian/research/median-home-values-by-state/>.

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affordable housing when compared to the monthly cost to rent or own a single-family home.<sup>10</sup>

### Exhibit 3: Berkeley Home Prices are Third Highest Among Large Bay Area Cities

City	% change from Feb. 2020 to Feb. 2021	▼ Average value in Feb. 2021
Sunnyvale	11.1%	\$1.8M
San Mateo	1.6%	\$1.5M
<b>Berkeley</b>	<b>6.9%</b>	<b>\$1.5M</b>
San Francisco	-3.2%	\$1.4M
Santa Clara	12.2%	\$1.4M
Fremont	7.7%	\$1.2M
San Jose	14.0%	\$1.2M
Daly City	3.2%	\$1.1M
Livermore	10.4%	\$900K
Oakland	8.9%	\$870K

Source: Zillow, as reported by Neilson, Susie, Sumida, Nami, “Every major Bay Area city has seen home values go up in the pandemic. Except for one,” *The San Francisco Chronicle*, April 10, 2021, <https://www.sfchronicle.com/local/article/Mapped-Real-estate-prices-soared-in-the-Bay-Area-16091650.php>.

### RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The proposed recommendations for streamlining the review of ADU permit applications are intended to ensure that staff time is used efficiently, customers receive their permits in a timely manner at a competitive price, and that ultimately, these process improvements encourage more homeowners to create ADUs--a form of naturally-occurring more affordable housing that is greatly needed across the Bay Area and state.

<sup>10</sup> See both San Mateo County – April Report, *Affordability of Secondary Dwelling Units — 21 Elements*, April 9, 2014 (Used data from 2010- 2013): <https://norcalapa.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Affordability-of-Second-Units-April-2014.pdf>; and Chapple, et. al., *Yes in My Backyard: Mobilizing the Market for Secondary Units*, 2012, Center for Community Innovation, Univ. of California, Berkeley, Page 10: [https://communityinnovation.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/yes\\_in\\_my\\_backyard\\_mobilizing\\_the\\_market\\_for\\_secondary\\_units.pdf?width=1200&height=800&iframe=true](https://communityinnovation.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/yes_in_my_backyard_mobilizing_the_market_for_secondary_units.pdf?width=1200&height=800&iframe=true)

FISCAL IMPACT

Time-limited staff time from relevant departments (Planning, Fire, and Public Works) to develop standardized sets of requirements to satisfy all building codes and safety regulations. Additional staff time from the Planning Department would be required to implement related ADU streamlining recommendations. We note that over time the initial outlay of staff time would lead to more efficient processing of ADU permit applications.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Encouraging the creation of ADUs and Junior ADUs enables the City to make more efficient use of residential land that is generally located in close proximity to public transit. Studies show that infill development is an effective strategy for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by reducing vehicle miles traveled when compared to homes created in outlying undeveloped areas.

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Rashi Kesarwani, District 1

(510) 981-7110

Attachment:

City of San Jose ADU Universal Checklist

# ADU Universal Checklist

**Are you thinking about building an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU)?** This checklist will help ensure that your idea for an ADU aligns with the City’s Zoning Code, and will help you prepare for building permit requirements. Homeowners, designers, and construction professionals should all understand how the items in this checklist may affect the ADU design and requirements, before creating any building plans.

**Need help?**

- To find your property designations, visit [www.sjpermits.org](http://www.sjpermits.org) and tap “Permits & Property Information”; enter your address; and on the next screen, click on your property and select “Property Information.” A list of designations will appear.
- If you need further help, contact the ADU Ally at [adu.ally@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:adu.ally@sanjoseca.gov) or 408-793-5302.

Learn more about ADUs: [www.sanjoseca.gov/ADUs](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/ADUs)

QUESTION	YES	NO						
<b>SECTION A. PROPERTIES THAT QUALIFY</b>								
<p><b>1. Zoning.</b> Is the property in a residential zone that begins with R-1, R-2, R-M, or PD? Or, regardless of zoning, is the property in one of the following General Plan designations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Residential Neighborhood or Mixed-Use Neighborhood or Mixed-Use Commercial</li> <li>- Urban Residential or Transit Residential or Rural Residential</li> <li>- Downtown or Urban Village</li> </ul> <p>Find zoning designation: <a href="http://www.sjpermits.org">www.sjpermits.org</a> Find General Plan designation: <a href="http://www.sanjoseca.gov/GPdesignation">www.sanjoseca.gov/GPdesignation</a>            Questions on PD zones: Speak with a Planner at 408-535-3555 to learn about unique PD zones.</p> <p>&gt; <b>Outcome:</b> If no, an ADU is not allowed. If yes, see the table below:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Property Type</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Qualifying Units</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Single-family</td> <td>Subject to standards, one ADU and one JADU may be allowed -- see definitions, pages 2-4.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Duplex or Multifamily</td> <td>Subject to standards (pages 2-4), two detached ADUs may be allowed. For a duplex, one attached ADU may also be allowed. For multifamily lots, a number of attached ADUs equivalent to up to 25% of existing units may also be allowed (for example, a building with 12 units may qualify for 3 attached ADUs).</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Property Type	Qualifying Units	Single-family	Subject to standards, one ADU and one JADU may be allowed -- see definitions, pages 2-4.	Duplex or Multifamily	Subject to standards (pages 2-4), two detached ADUs may be allowed. For a duplex, one attached ADU may also be allowed. For multifamily lots, a number of attached ADUs equivalent to up to 25% of existing units may also be allowed (for example, a building with 12 units may qualify for 3 attached ADUs).		
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Duplex or Multifamily	Subject to standards (pages 2-4), two detached ADUs may be allowed. For a duplex, one attached ADU may also be allowed. For multifamily lots, a number of attached ADUs equivalent to up to 25% of existing units may also be allowed (for example, a building with 12 units may qualify for 3 attached ADUs).							
<b>SECTION B. PROPERTY DESIGNATIONS</b>								
<p><b>2. Easements.</b> Does the property have a dedicated easement? Easements are described in the title report that came with the purchase of your home. Contact a title company if you need to obtain a report. Tract and parcel maps may show easements, but may be less accurate than a title report. Find these maps at the County Surveyor Record Index tool at <a href="http://bit.ly/2ZhGjXc">http://bit.ly/2ZhGjXc</a>.</p> <p>&gt; <b>Outcome:</b> If yes, you must comply with the requirements of the easements, which may include no construction allowed within the easement area.</p>								
<p><b>3. Historic Designation.</b> Is the property located in a Historic District identified on the California Register of Historic Resources? Find historic designations: <a href="http://www.sanjoseca.gov/HistoricResourcesInventory">www.sanjoseca.gov/HistoricResourcesInventory</a>.</p> <p>&gt; <b>Outcome:</b> If yes, simplified design standards will apply. Please speak with a Planner at 408-535-3555.</p>								
<p><b>4. Geohazard Zone.</b> Is the property in a designated “geohazard” or “landslide” zone? Find designations: <a href="http://www.sjpermits.org">www.sjpermits.org</a></p> <p>&gt; <b>Outcome:</b> If yes, you will need a Geologic Hazard Clearance.            Call Public Works at 408-535-7802 or email <a href="mailto:pwgeneralinfo@sanjoseca.gov">pwgeneralinfo@sanjoseca.gov</a></p>								
<p><b>5. Flood Zones.</b> Is the property in Flood Zones A, AE, AH, or AO? <i>Properties in D or X zones are excluded from these requirements.</i></p> <p>Find designation: <a href="http://www.sjpermits.org">www.sjpermits.org</a> Questions: Call 408-535-7803 or email <a href="mailto:floodzoneinfo@sanjoseca.gov">floodzoneinfo@sanjoseca.gov</a></p> <p>&gt; <b>Outcome:</b> If yes, see flood zone design requirements in <a href="#">Bulletin #211-ADU Plan Requirements</a>, found at <a href="http://www.sanjoseca.gov/home/showdocument?id=39040">www.sanjoseca.gov/home/showdocument?id=39040</a></p>								

*continued*

**SECTION C. DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS - Per Municipal Code Section 20.30.150: <http://bit.ly/33Knz6c>**

A great way to ensure your proposed ADU complies with the Zoning Code Development Standards is to meet with a City Planner. This free consultation can help you avoid designing plans that will NOT be approved. Come to the Permit Center and bring a completed Universal Checklist and a rough sketch of your property showing dimensions and the location of the main home and location of the proposed ADU. See full instructions for this consultation at [www.sanjoseca.gov/ADUs](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/ADUs).

**QUESTION** **YES** **NO**

**6. Location.** Is your proposed ADU located as follows?

Property Type	Location Requirements
Single-Family	<p><b>Attached ADU:</b> Must share a wall with main residence OR share a roof structure with main residence and be separated by no more than 10 feet. For an attached ADU in the front yard, the front door cannot be on same street-facing façade as that of the primary residence, with some exceptions (learn more by speaking with a Planner at 408-535-3555).</p> <p><b>Detached ADU:</b> Must be in the rear yard or 45 feet from the front property line. Must have a minimum 6-foot separation from the main dwelling unit. May be a converted detached garage or accessory building OR may be built attached to a detached garage or accessory building.</p> <p><b>Junior Accessory Dwelling Unit (JADU):</b> Must locate entirely within the main home’s existing footprint. You may have a JADU and a detached ADU. Both a JADU and attached ADU are not allowed.</p>
Duplex or Multifamily	<p><b>Attached ADU:</b> Location is limited to a conversion of existing non-livable space, such as converting an attic, basement, garage, storage room, boiler room, or passageway.</p> <p><b>Detached ADU:</b> Must be in the rear yard or 45 feet from the front property line, with a minimum 6-foot separation from the main building. The ADU may be a conversion of a detached garage or accessory building, or attached to a detached garage or accessory building.</p> <p><b>JADU:</b> Not allowed.</p>

> **Outcome:** If yes, your planned location for the ADU is in compliance. If no, your plans will not be approved.

**7. Size.** Is the size of the proposed ADU within the maximum limits as shown in the tables below AND does the proposed size account for the Rear Yard Coverage Limitation?

SINGLE-FAMILY LOTS	
Lot Size	Maximum Floor Area Allowed
Up to 9,000 sf	Detached ADU: 1,000 sf maximum
	Attached ADU: Size can be up to 800 sf OR up to 50% of the primary residence area without exceeding 1,000 sf. Example: For an 1,800 sf home, a 900 sf attached ADU is allowed.
9,000 sf and greater	Detached ADU: 1,200 sf maximum
	Attached ADU: Size can be up to 800 sf OR up to 50% of the primary residence area without exceeding 1,200 sf. Example: For an 2,400 sf home, a 1,200 sf attached ADU is allowed.
Any lot with a JADU	JADU: 500 sf maximum
	Detached ADU: 800 sf maximum
	Attached ADU: not allowed with a JADU

DUPLEX & MULTIFAMILY LOTS	
Lot Size	Maximum Floor Area Allowed
Any lot size	Detached ADU: 800 sf maximum
	Attached ADU: 800 sf maximum
	JADU: not allowed

*How to calculate allowable square footage (sf):*  
The square footage of all living areas (existing or proposed) connected by a door or other opening counts toward the total allowable square footage of the ADU.

**Rear Yard Coverage Limitation.** The rear yard is the area that extends from the rear lot line to the rear of the main home across the full width of the lot. The cumulative coverage of the rear yard by structures — including coverage by the ADU, accessory buildings, sheds, gazebos, or other structures — may not exceed 40% of the rear yard or 800 sq.ft., whichever is greater. Does your project comply with this rule?

> **Outcome:** If yes, your ADU size is in compliance. If no, your plans will not be approved.

QUESTION	YES	NO												
<p><b>8. Setbacks.</b> Does your proposed ADU comply with these rules for setbacks?</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="167 205 1409 745"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="167 205 370 237">Property Type</th> <th data-bbox="370 205 1409 237">Location Requirements</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="167 237 370 420">Single-family</td> <td data-bbox="370 237 1409 420"> <b>Attached ADU:</b> Same setback requirements as apply to the main dwelling unit.  <b>Detached ADU:</b>                      - Must be set back 45 feet minimum from front property line.                      - Rear/side setbacks less than 3 feet may be subject to fire mitigation measures, see p. 4.                      - A second story OR new ADU with greater than 40% rear yard coverage must be set back 4 feet from both rear and side property lines.                 </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="167 420 370 602">Duplex or Multifamily</td> <td data-bbox="370 420 1409 602"> <b>Attached ADU:</b> Setbacks not applicable as the attached ADU is limited to a conversion of existing non-livable space.  <b>Detached ADU:</b>                      - Must be in the rear yard or 45 feet from the front property line.                      - Rear/side setbacks: Minimum 4 feet, allows for up to 1-foot projection for eaves                      - A second story must be set back 4 feet from both rear and side property lines.                 </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="167 602 370 646">Corner lots</td> <td data-bbox="370 602 1409 646">A 10-foot setback is required on the street side.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="167 646 795 690">Lots ½ acre or greater along riparian corridors</td> <td data-bbox="795 646 1409 690">Minimum 100-foot setback required.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="167 690 795 745">Decks, unenclosed entry landings, and second-story balconies</td> <td data-bbox="795 690 1409 745">Minimum 15-foot rear/side setback required. May not locate along building walls nearest to rear and side property lines.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>&gt; <b>Outcome:</b> If yes, the setbacks for your ADU are in compliance. If no, your plans will not be approved.</p>	Property Type	Location Requirements	Single-family	<b>Attached ADU:</b> Same setback requirements as apply to the main dwelling unit. <b>Detached ADU:</b> - Must be set back 45 feet minimum from front property line. - Rear/side setbacks less than 3 feet may be subject to fire mitigation measures, see p. 4. - A second story OR new ADU with greater than 40% rear yard coverage must be set back 4 feet from both rear and side property lines.	Duplex or Multifamily	<b>Attached ADU:</b> Setbacks not applicable as the attached ADU is limited to a conversion of existing non-livable space. <b>Detached ADU:</b> - Must be in the rear yard or 45 feet from the front property line. - Rear/side setbacks: Minimum 4 feet, allows for up to 1-foot projection for eaves - A second story must be set back 4 feet from both rear and side property lines.	Corner lots	A 10-foot setback is required on the street side.	Lots ½ acre or greater along riparian corridors	Minimum 100-foot setback required.	Decks, unenclosed entry landings, and second-story balconies	Minimum 15-foot rear/side setback required. May not locate along building walls nearest to rear and side property lines.		
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<p><b>9. Height.</b> Does your proposed ADU comply with these height limitations?</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="167 871 1409 1081"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="167 871 370 903">Property Type</th> <th data-bbox="370 871 1409 903">Location Requirements</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="167 903 370 1003">Single-family</td> <td data-bbox="370 903 1409 1003"> <b>Attached ADU:</b> Same height limitations as apply to the main dwelling unit.  <b>Detached ADU:</b> One story: 18 feet maximum. Two-story: 24 feet maximum                      If the property includes a JADU, height of a detached ADU is 16 feet maximum per state law.                 </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="167 1003 370 1081">Duplex or Multifamily</td> <td data-bbox="370 1003 1409 1081"> <b>Attached ADU:</b> Limited to a conversion of existing non-livable space and must maintain existing height.  <b>Detached ADU:</b> 16 feet maximum per state law                 </td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>Outcome:</b> If yes, the height of your ADU is in compliance. If no, your plans will not be approved.</p>	Property Type	Location Requirements	Single-family	<b>Attached ADU:</b> Same height limitations as apply to the main dwelling unit. <b>Detached ADU:</b> One story: 18 feet maximum. Two-story: 24 feet maximum If the property includes a JADU, height of a detached ADU is 16 feet maximum per state law.	Duplex or Multifamily	<b>Attached ADU:</b> Limited to a conversion of existing non-livable space and must maintain existing height. <b>Detached ADU:</b> 16 feet maximum per state law								
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<p><b>10. Sleeping Area.</b> Up to two bedrooms are allowed, and the maximum bedroom size is 400 sf. Does the sleeping area or bedroom/s planned for the ADU or JADU comply with these standards?</p> <p>&gt; <b>Outcome:</b> If yes, your layout for the sleeping area is allowed. If no, your plans will not be approved</p>														
<p><b>11. Kitchen, Bathroom, Storage.</b> Does your proposed ADU or JADU comply with these rules?</p> <p><b>Kitchen</b> - ADUs must have a sink, food preparation counter, storage, cabinets, and permanent cooking facilities such as a range or cooktop and oven. JADUs may have the same OR a small efficiency kitchen with plug-in appliances.</p> <p><b>Bathroom/s</b> - For ADUs, up to two bathrooms are allowed, requiring a sink, toilet, and shower and/or bath facilities. For JADUs, sharing the bathroom with the main residence is allowed or one bathroom or a half bathroom is allowed.</p> <p><b>Storage</b> - A closet or other enclosed storage area cannot exceed 60 sq. ft.</p> <p>&gt; <b>Outcome:</b> If yes, your design is in compliance. If no, your plans will not be approved.</p>														
<p><b>12. Second Story Window Sill Height.</b> Sill height for any openings must be a minimum 5 feet from the floor for walls nearest to rear and side property lines. Does your project comply with this rule?</p> <p>&gt; <b>Outcome:</b> If yes, this window design is allowed. If no, the plans will not be approved.</p>														
<p><b>13. Parking Requirements.</b> Does your proposed ADU either provide a parking space OR qualify for an exemption?</p> <p><b>Exemptions:</b> Many ADUs qualify for a parking exemption in accordance with state law. Please see the Parking Requirements page at <a href="http://www.sanjoseca.gov/ADUs">www.sanjoseca.gov/ADUs</a> for a list of the exemption criteria.</p> <p><b>Parking space location:</b> If you are required to provide a parking space, it must be located on a surface free of mud or dust. It may be located within the front and side setbacks of the property, with a minimum driveway length of 18 feet.</p> <p><b>Parking requirements after a garage conversion:</b> If you converted a garage to an ADU, replacement parking for the main home is no longer required.</p> <p>&gt; <b>Outcome:</b> If yes, your proposed project is in compliance. If no, your plans will not be approved.</p>														

SECTION D. FIRE SAFETY & EMERGENCY ACCESS		
We will review your ADU project for compliance with the California Fire Code (CFC) so that projects are built for safety and ease of access during an emergency. For questions, call the City's Fire Prevention Bureau: 408-535-7750		
QUESTION	YES	NO
<p><b>14. Hydrant Water Flow.</b> Is a minimum flow of 1,000 gpm at 20 psi available at the closest hydrant? Ask your Water Company for this information. Send an email with "ADU WATER FLOW REQUEST" in the subject line and present this information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Your name</li> <li>▪ Street name and address of the project</li> <li>▪ Nearest cross street to that location</li> </ul> <p>Submit the letter from the Water Company that contains this water flow data with your building permit application. <b>DON'T WAIT!</b> A top reason for permit issuance delays is not having this letter. Your water company will respond, so contact them today. Find Water Company contact information at the <a href="https://www.sanjoseca.gov/business/development-services-permit-center/accessory-dwelling-units-adus/adu-fire-requirements">ADU Fire Requirements webpage</a>: <a href="https://www.sanjoseca.gov/business/development-services-permit-center/accessory-dwelling-units-adus/adu-fire-requirements">https://www.sanjoseca.gov/business/development-services-permit-center/accessory-dwelling-units-adus/adu-fire-requirements</a></p> <p>&gt; <b>Outcome:</b> If the flow is other than 1,000 gpm at 20 psi, Fire staff will review flow data and will evaluate if additional fire safety measures are required.</p>		
<p><b>15. Hydrant Proximity.</b> Are all exterior walls of the ADU within 600 feet of a fire hydrant?</p> <p>On the Site Plan Vicinity Map for plan submittal, mark one or more locations of fire hydrants closest to the project. Indicate the distance from the hydrant/s to the farthest exterior wall of the ADU, using the minimum 3-foot clear path of travel.</p> <p>&gt; <b>Outcome:</b> If no, your project may require a Fire Variance that entails additional safety measures. Call 408-535-7750 for direction. Find the Variance application at: <a href="http://www.sanjoseca.gov/Home/ShowDocument?id=9343">www.sanjoseca.gov/Home/ShowDocument?id=9343</a></p>		
<p><b>16. Fire sprinklers.</b> Is the primary residence protected by fire sprinklers?</p> <p>&gt; <b>Outcome:</b> If yes, the ADU must have a fire sprinkler system.</p>		
<p><b>17. Fire sprinklers and attached ADUs.</b> Is the project an attached ADU greater than 500 square feet AND does the overall gross floor area with the main unit exceed 3,600 square feet?</p> <p>&gt; <b>Outcome:</b> If yes, the entire house and ADU are required to be protected with a fire sprinkler system.</p>		
<p><b>18. ADU Address.</b> Does the ADU have its own address and is the address visible and legible from the street?</p> <p>Premises Identification guidelines: <a href="http://www.sanjoseca.gov/Home/ShowDocument?id=9323">www.sanjoseca.gov/Home/ShowDocument?id=9323</a>.</p> <p>On the Site Plan for plan submittal, show the address location on the primary dwelling unit and on the ADU.</p> <p>&gt; <b>Outcome:</b> If no, please complete Form #302, found at: <a href="http://www.sanjoseca.gov/home/showdocument?id=25943">www.sanjoseca.gov/home/showdocument?id=25943</a></p>		
<p><b>19. ADU Access.</b> Is the distance from the street curb of the lot to all portions of the proposed ADU no greater than 200 feet as measured along a minimum 3-foot clear path to all sides of the ADU?</p> <p>On the Site Plan for plan submittal, show the distance along the minimum 3-foot clear path from the front property line to the ADU's farthest exterior side or projection (such as eaves), whichever is farthest.</p> <p>&gt; <b>Outcome:</b> If no, your project may require a Fire Variance that entails additional safety measures. Call 408-535-7750 for direction. Find the Variance application at: <a href="http://www.sanjoseca.gov/Home/ShowDocument?id=9343">www.sanjoseca.gov/Home/ShowDocument?id=9343</a></p>		
SECTION E. MISCELLANEOUS		
<p><b>20. Tree Removal.</b> Will constructing an ADU require removal of an ordinance-size or heritage tree?</p> <p>&gt; <b>Outcome:</b> If yes, please see the City's rules for removing trees: <a href="http://www.sanjoseca.gov/treepermit">www.sanjoseca.gov/treepermit</a></p>		

## ADU ALLY - HERE TO HELP YOU

Our ADU Ally is a staff member that will answer your questions; connect you to other staff who may be of assistance; and schedule your appointment for ADU plan submittal and review.

Email: [adu.ally@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:adu.ally@sanjoseca.gov)

Phone: 408-793-5302